

Shamir, Baker cite progress

WASHINGTON (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said Wednesday that they had made progress in efforts to get Israeli-Palestinian negotiations underway on a basis in the occupied territories. After a two-hour meeting, neither leader gave any indication of a breakthrough in U.S.-Israeli relations which had prevented Shamir's visit to Washington. "The main issue we have discussed was the peace process, our 'peace' initiative, how we have to proceed and how we have to solve all the questions arising on the way. I think we have made some progress," Shamir told reporters. Shamir and Baker proceeded from their discussion to a meeting with U.S. President George Bush at the White House. Shamir was greeted at the entrance by a group of demonstrators waving Palestinian flags shouting slogans in favour of an independent Palestinian state. The only hint of disagreement between Shamir and Baker was a reference by the Israeli leader to the possibility of Baker visiting Israel to pursue his initiative. "We are looking forward to his visit... and we would like of course to see very soon

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Groups claims kidnappings

BEIRUT (AP) — A previously unknown group calling itself the "Just Revenge" claimed Wednesday it has kidnapped an American newsman and two naturalized West Germans in Beirut. The claim came in a typewritten statement delivered to a Western news agency along with photocopies of the passports and visas of the three victims. The American's name was given in the documents as Deborah Fahrend, 54, of San Francisco. Her occupation was given in the 30-word Arabic statement as a publisher-journalist. The two Germans were Mounir Shamseddin Sami, 39, born in Lebanon, and his seven-year-old son Daniel, born in Berlin, according to the documents. The statement said: "The organization of Just Revenge announces its responsibility for kidnapping West German Mounir Sami (born in Lebanon) and his son Daniel Sami and American publisher-journalist Deborah Fahrend in Beirut for their activities in Lebanon." There was no further elaboration in the poorly typed statement, which failed to say when the abduction took place and made no demands.

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Bush, world leaders congratulate King

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received a telephone call from President George Bush, who congratulated him on his birthday anniversary.

Bush wished King Hussein good health and the Jordanian people progress and prosperity.

Bush also praised the King's wise leadership and lauded Jordan's free parliamentary elections, which will give the people a chance in the decision-making process, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The King also received telephone calls or cables of good wishes from President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, King Juan Carlos of Spain, King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali of Tunisia, Algerian President Chadli Benjedid, Bahraini Emir Sheikh Issa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa, Kuwaiti Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Sabah, King Baudoin of Belgium and President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua.

On the occasion of the King's birthday, Madaba district organized a cross-country race for students of secondary and preparatory classes. A hundred participants took part in the 10-kilometre race, and the winners received awards and medals. The Department of Education organized a scout march through Madaba streets and a cultural and artistic festival at the Madaba Municipality.

In Karak, a special committee has made arrangements for celebrations, which include marches in streets and cultural events to be held in youth centres where local troops will present folkloric dances and national songs.

On the occasion of King Hussein's birthday, 2,000 male and female students paraded through Amman streets Wednesday.

Accompanying the march were

brass bands from the Public Security Department.

A representative of the Ministry of Education, which organised the march, delivered a speech at the Palace of Culture, students presented a variety show of national songs and dances.

On Thursday, the Department of Education in the Amman region will organise a cross-country race for 500 students from Amman schools.

The Armed Forces' brass bands held an evening show at the sports stadium of the University of Jordan. Dean of the Students Department Khaled Al Karaki and teachers and students attended the show. Later Karaki opened an exhibition of cultural and scientific books at the university.

An art exhibition by Amwar Haddadin will be held Nov. 23-27, 1989 at Yarmouk University marking the King's birthday anniversary.

A popular march was held Wednesday at the Shuma Secondary School for Girls. Senior officials from the North Ghaz district and scouts led the march, which preceded further celebrations. Folkloric performances and skiing displays were held in Aqaba.

Celebrations were also held at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) to mark the King's birthday. The festivities included exhibitions and a ceremony held to honour excellent students. The university president, Dr. Kamal Ajlouni, also opened a football stadium to mark the celebration.

On Tuesday, Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali, deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, opened an exhibition of prayer rugs at the Yarmouk University. In the exhibition are a rare collection of rugs dating back several centuries.



One year after the proclamation of the State of Palestine, peace efforts are stagnated but the intifada, the 'revolution of stones,' shows no sign of abating

Palestinians defy massive siege to mark anniversary

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(Agencies) — Israeli troops confined a million Palestinians to their homes in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip Wednesday, the first anniversary of the declaration of the State of Palestine.

Army roadblocks stopped journalists from entering many towns and villages in the West Bank, while the entire Gaza Strip remained a closed area following a Monday night ambush in which one Israeli soldier was killed and another wounded.

About half a million of the Gaza Strip's 700,000 residents were under curfew, but witnesses quoted by Reuters said activists handed out posters of Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and copies of the Palestinian national anthem.

In the West Bank, troops clamped a curfew on Nablus, the largest city. Residents of several camps housing Palestinian refugees were also ordered off the streets.

Israeli radio said more than a million Palestinians out of the 1.7 million living in the West Bank and Gaza were confined to their homes by curfews.

Festivities staged in several towns and refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza featured youths shooting off fireworks, street dancing, and children marching with balloons the colours of the Palestinian national flag.

Violent protests erupted in at least five towns where soldiers fired live ammunition and rubber

King congratulates Arafat

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein sent a congratulatory message to Palestine President and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat Wednesday on the occasion of the first anniversary of the proclamation of a Palestinian state. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King voiced hope that the Palestinians' struggle would be crowned with the establishment of an independent state led by the PLO.

bullets, wounding or injuring 10 people during stone-throwing demonstrations, reports said. Police also fired tear-gas to disperse a protest march by about 200 doctors and nurses from the hospitals in Arab Jerusalem, after rocks were hurled at the troops from behind fences, a spokesman said. There were no injuries in the incident.

Troops were under orders to respond firmly to any violence and were warned that uprising activists had received orders to increase the use of firearms in the wake of Monday's fatal shooting in the Gaza.

"I warn the residents of the (occupied) territories that if they try to use force and obey the orders of strike forces, they will suffer, and suffer greatly," Israeli's chief of staff Dan Shomron was quoted by two news dailies as saying Tuesday night.

Five major newspapers said Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin told legislators Tuesday that Arab activists had received secret orders from uprising leaders to attack Israelis with firearms, rather than stones or firebombs,

particularly Wednesday Nov. 15.

The day marked one year since the Palestine National Council (PNC) proclaimed statehood in the occupied territories.

Palestinians launched celebrations of the holiday Tuesday night, setting off fireworks in Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip, where women also danced to the steps of the "dabka" in streets.

Festivities continued in several places, such as Yatta near Hebron. Some 200 youths masked with headaddresses danced in the village wearing Tee-shirts with emblems of the green-black-red and white Palestinian flag and sang nationalist songs.

In Mazraa Asharkiya near Ramallah, activists draped the Palestinian flag on a mosque, while children encircled the building with smaller flags. Pictures of Arafat were also displayed.

In Ramallah, 12 kilometres north of Jerusalem, soldiers placed the centre of the West Bank town under curfew and erected roadblocks to prevent journalists from entering.

Saadeh hits Aoun for 'not giving peace a chance'

SHIBTINE, Lebanon (AP) —

Leading Christian politician George Saadeh Wednesday criticized army chief Michel Aoun for not giving peace a chance. But Aoun said moderate Christian leaders who support an Arab peace plan deserve to have their throats and tongues cut.

"We've tried all means to liberate Lebanon from foreign forces throughout the 14 years of war, but we haven't succeeded," the 57-year-old Saadeh said in an interview with the Associated Press.

"The national reconciliation charter is a peace offensive to liberate Lebanon without bloodshed," he said, referring to a pact devised by parliament at a meeting in Saudi Arabia.

"I don't understand why he (Aoun) doesn't want to give peace a chance," Saadeh said in the interview in his home village of Shibtine, 45 kilometres north of Beirut.

He made the remarks after Aoun warned:

"Those who support the Arab solution deserve to have their throats and tongues cut... we are not going to be lenient with them."

Saadeh, a Maronite Catholic like Aoun, heads the right-wing Falange Party, which is the largest Christian political faction in Lebanon. He also doubles as head of the Lebanese Front alliance of Christian groups, and is a member of parliament.

Saadeh was the main Christian negotiator in 23 days of deliberations by Lebanese legislators at the Saudi summer resort of Taif last month, which resulted in a peace plan to end the civil war,

which has killed more than 150,000 people.

The accord, referred to locally as the national reconciliation charter, was ratified by parliament at a meeting at an air base in north Lebanon Nov. 4, when the deputies also elected parliamentary member Rene Muawad as president of the republic.

Aoun rejected the Taif accord because it does not include a timetable for the withdrawal of Syria's 40,000 troops from predominantly Muslim Lebanese territories under their control.

The 54-year-old general declared parliament dissolved to prevent the house from ratifying the peace accord and to try to block the presidential election.

Aoun also rejected Muawad's election as unconstitutional, but Saadeh said "The election of President Muawad is 100 per cent in line with the constitution" and stressed his party would recognise the government formed by Muawad.

Muawad has designated politician Salim Al Hoss as prime minister to form a national reconciliation government in line with the Taif accord.

Hoss, in his capacity as caretaker finance minister, instructed the Finance Ministry and Central Bank Wednesday that only President Muawad was allowed to withdraw from the account allocated for the presidency.

Hoss, contacted by telephone, said the measure was meant to "stop Aoun from withdrawing from the presidency's account. Now we have a president. He is the only one who has the right to control this account."

Arafat: Palestinian peace message ignored

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestine

Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Wednesday the "message of peace" that accompanied his proclamation of a Palestinian state a year ago was misunderstood by Israel and ignored by the United States.

The Israelis were "blinded by their hatred and by their determination to pursue the occupation" of the West Bank, the Palestinian news agency Wafa reported Arafat as saying, and had failed to understand that "we want to live in a free and independent territory so that the cradle of religions may again become a land of peace."

Unfortunately, Arafat said, the United States — in spite of President George Bush's warning that the occupation must end — "continues to give Israel unlimited assistance, allowing it to pursue the occupation and the violations of human rights in the occupied territories."

On Tuesday, the U.S. house of representatives approved a \$14.6 billion foreign aid bill that in-

cluded \$3 billion for Israel.

Arafat, on the first anniversary of the proclamation of the State of Palestine, said Palestinians had an appointment with victory in their battle for an independent country.

The year proved the Palestinian movement had made the right choice when it launched its peace initiative, he said: "We have an appointment with victory. The dawn is breaking and the state is a stone's throw away."

In a statement Wednesday to mark the anniversary, the PLO chairman said: "A year has now passed since the historic decision of our national council and it was confirmed that the Palestinian vision was sound and that the decision was the right one."

In the early hours of Nov. 15 last year, at a meeting in Algiers, the Palestine National Council (PNC) proclaimed the state and approved a peace strategy based on a two-state solution in the territory now occupied by Israel.

The PLO says 93 states have recognised the new state or the independence proclamation.

Gorbachev warns West not to 'export capitalism'

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has warned the Western powers against trying to take advantage of the upheaval in Eastern Europe, urging them not to export international cooperation by "exporting capitalism."

He made the comments six days after East Germany's embattled Communist leaders let their citizens travel freely to the West and as Western countries began allocating hundreds of millions of dollars in aid to Poland and Hungary.

Other top Soviet officials joined their president in condemning any Western attempts to exploit the current instability in the East bloc and throwing cold water on calls for German reunification.

In Tokyo, Gorbachev adviser Alexander Yakovlev said he was surprised by Western commentators who interpret the result in the region as demonstrating the failure of socialism and Soviet policy.

"This is an obsolete, archaic

way of thinking," the politburo member told a news conference Wednesday in Tokyo (see page 8). "We would like to have a common European house based on freedom. If someone interferes in that process, we might go back to the time of the cold war. We are standing at such a juncture."

Gorbachev issued his warning to the West in a Kremlin meeting Tuesday with Foreign Minister Roland Dumas of France.

East German newspapers Wednesday appeared to dismiss West Germany's offer of financial aid.

Also Wednesday, East Germany's official news agency said nearly half the country's 16.5 million people had been issued visas for the West since travel restrictions were lifted last Thursday.

ADN quoted an unidentified Interior Ministry official as saying 7,765,881 visas for West Berlin and West Germany had been approved. Visas for visits by people intending to return.

Authorities approved 13,579

emigration requests over the same period, ADN reported. More than 200,000 East Germans have emigrated or fled to West Germany this year.

Economist Karl-Heinz Arnold told the Communist Party newspaper Berliner Zeitung that East Germany can manage its own recovery, an indication that West Germany's conditional aid offer may be rejected.

"I don't see any need to dramatize the internal or external financial situation" of East Germany, Arnold was quoted as saying.

The government newspaper Bauern-Echo, aimed at East Germany's farmers, warned of becoming too greatly influenced by West Germany.

"Yes to unrestricted travel. No to an East German sellout," the paper declared. "Yes to meeting again, no to reunification. The two German states are politically and economically too diverse."

There was no official response from the government to West Germany's offer.

U.S. sends message to PLO through Cairo

CAIRO (Agencies) — The U.S. secretary of state telephoned his Egyptian counterpart Wednesday, hours before top-level American-Israeli talks in Washington, and gave him a message for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) about a proposed Middle East peace dialogue.

Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid said Secretary James Baker's message was a reply to one that Egypt had relayed to Washington last week on behalf of the PLO.

"Secretary Baker phoned me early this morning and gave me the U.S. response to the Palestinian request for clarification and explanations that I had relayed last Friday," Abdul Meguid said.

He spoke with reporters after passing along Baker's message to Hani Al Hassan, a chief lieutenant of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, and the PLO's representative in Cairo.

Abdul Meguid and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens both have consulted with Baker several times by phone since the secretary last month proposed a five-point plan for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo as a step towards a peace settlement.

Under the plan proposed by Baker, Israelis and Palestinians would meet for preliminary talks in Cairo which could eventually lead to a further round of peace negotiations.

The main obstacle to the meeting is over who will represent Palestinians at the meeting. Israel says it will not talk to the PLO, the PLO says it must have the final say in any delegation.

Cairo has been acting as the main mediator between the PLO and Washington.

Cairo's Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported from Washington that diplomatic sources attached importance

to the timing of Baker's call.

It came 18 hours before Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was to enter talks in Washington with Baker and President George Bush. Shamir, who arrived Monday, was seeing Baker over lunch at the State Department before calling on Bush at the White House.

MENA said its Washington sources mentioned the possibility of an announcement in Washington Thursday or Friday of "a step that may open the way for the start of the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue envisaged by Baker."

The agency said reports circulating in Washington spoke of an imminent meeting there among Baker, Abdul Meguid and Arens.

Reports have said such a meeting is among the five points of the Baker plan, details of which have not been disclosed officially. The reports

said Baker wants the three-way meeting to precede the dialogue.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said in Washington Tuesday the points raised by Israel and by Egypt for the PLO would have to be ironed out before Baker hosts the ministerial session.

Speaking before Baker's phone call, Tutwiler said Washington likewise still awaited Egypt's own views on the plan and that a positive reply from Cairo would be helpful.

Abdul Meguid did not say whether he and Baker touched on this in their conversation.

Palestinian sources in Cairo said the PLO request for clarifications in effect demanded that Washington acknowledge that the PLO has the sole right to form a delegation to the dialogue and to represent the Palestinian people in all future peace talks. It also demanded that the dialogue agenda be

unconditional and open.

These demands appear directly counter to Israeli-requested U.S. assurances that the dialogue would be confined to mechanics of Palestinian elections in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza, with no participation by the PLO.

Shamir was visited in his midtown Washington hotel suite Tuesday by officials from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), a lobbying and research group, and from the Conference Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

He also met with Israeli Ambassador Moshe Arad and other Israeli embassy officials.

Some 200 American rabbis signed a letter circulated by the American Jewish Peace Lobby urging Shamir to accept the principle that Israel should relinquish land in return for peace.

Amman gathering pays tribute to Beit Sahour

By Mariam M. Shaban
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — On the eve of the first anniversary of the declaration of an independent State of Palestine, about 150 people gathered at the Amman chapter of the Beit Sahour Club to celebrate the occasion as well as to honour the "outstanding resistance which the people of Beit Sahour and other people in the West Bank and Gaza have shown in the face of brutal oppression," as one guest speaker put it.

The independent Palestinian state was declared in a special session of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Algiers Nov. 15, 1988.

All Arab governments have recognised the Palestinian state along with 74 other countries.

A large banner carrying the Jordanian and Palestinian flags spanned overhead. Drawn pictures of a church tower as well as a mosque's minaret decorated each side of the banner while two clasped hands underneath seemed to symbolise a major theme of the evening — the unity among Jordanians and Palestinians, Muslims and Christians and the unity of the Palestinian people.

Even before the four guest speakers spoke, the audience

felt the message of solidarity and unity as symbolised in the 22-month-old intifada.

The speakers addressed the audience on Beit Sahour natives residing in Amman and supporters of the Palestinian cause about the symbolic significance of the resistance in Beit Sahour.

No taxation

"No taxation without representation" was the main slogan of resistance that the people in Beit Sahour raised and maintained to resist Israeli occupation. The inhabitants of the Arab town, near Bethlehem, refused to pay their taxes to the Israeli authorities arguing that they would not contribute to revenues that pay for the bullets that kill them and their compatriots.

Prior to their refusal to pay taxes the people of Beit Sahour had refused to collect the Israeli identification cards. The ID cards are imposed by the Israeli occupation forces on all Arab residents of the occupied territories. The Israelis retaliated quickly to what they saw as a challenge to their rule. Obviously they feared that residents of other towns and villages would emulate Beit Sahour in their resistance.

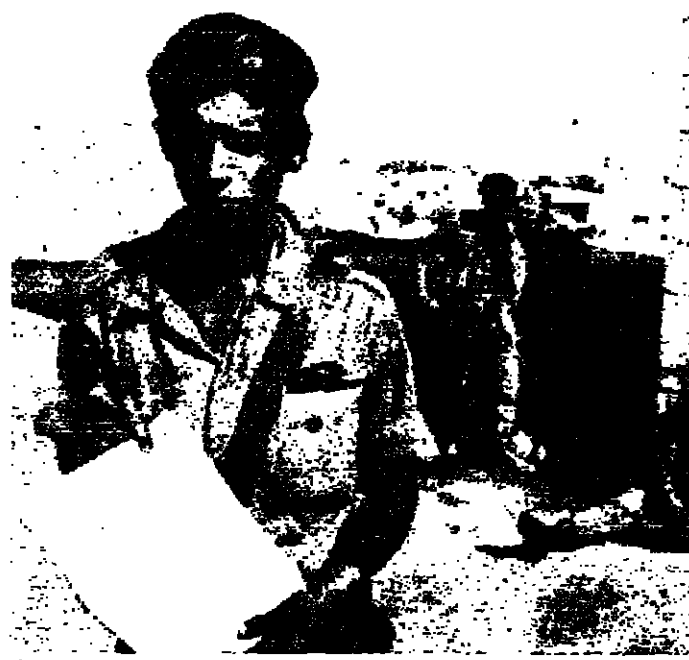
Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin ordered a crack-down on the town. A curfew was imposed followed by a warning from the defence minister that the people were about to be taught a "lesson that they would never forget" and soon afterwards tax collectors raided the town. Reports have said that goods worth over \$1.5 million were "seized" by the army during the raids.

Curfews on Beit Sahour continue today and the story has captured world attention through extensive media coverage.

The fact that most of the town's residents are Christian Arabs is of no special significance to those familiar with the Palestinian resistance struggle, but to those who are not it may seem significant that the conflict in Palestine is not only between Muslims and Jews.

"In honour of the intifada, of the Arab people of Palestine and the victims of the Arab-Israeli conflict, let us stand in a moment of silence," said Mashaour Hadiha Jazi, head of the Jordanian Committee in Solidarity with the People of Beit Sahour, addressing Wednesday's gathering in Amman.

Jazi, along with lawyer Naela Rashdan and deputy-elect Mansur Murad and



An Israeli soldier shows reporters an order closing the occupied West Bank town of Beit Sahour. Although a prolonged siege was lifted in the first week of November, the town remains under constant curfews for its residents' refusal to pay taxes to the occupation authorities.

Sheikh Yacoub Qarash, voiced total and absolute support for the intifada and stressed the unity of the Jordanian and Palestinian people and reiterated that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

Murad stressed that support for "our people in the occupied territories has to materialise in a more constructive and real way and not remain just lip-

service."

Qarash stressed the common Islamic culture of all Arab peoples "whether Muslim or Christian," and commended the people of Beit Sahour for "their heroic defence of the Arab Islamic homeland which is theirs and ours."

Rashdan stressed the "central role that Beit Sahour has taken in symbolising the unity of the Palestinian people and thus the Arab Nation."

Amman meeting endorses proposal

'Occupation must not obstruct education'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Delegates from 18 Arab countries and experts from various organisations taking part in a preparatory meeting for an international conference on "Education for All" Wednesday endorsed a proposal to be submitted to the international conference on the right of people under occupation to basic education.

"Education should be free for all people in the elementary stage without any interference by the occupying authorities which could impede the educational process through school closures, interference with curricula and disruption of teachers' work," said the rapporteur to the meeting, Tayseer Abdul Jabbar.

The meeting began Monday as part of on-going preparations in different parts of the world for the international conference to be held in Thailand in March 1990.

Abdul Jabbar, who is also executive secretary to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), presented the delegates' views in a general report on deliberations conducted over the past two days which dealt with all

aspects of "Education for All" and proposals by Arab states to achieve this principle.

The delegates are in agreement that the Thailand conference should mark the beginning and not the end of a world-wide campaign to ensure education for all; and thus there should be an integrated plan to follow up education programmes at the national, regional and international levels, according to the report.

The report called for a unified Arab stand on topics to be discussed. They cover the concept of basic education and fair distribution of educational opportunities for males and females.

Serious responsibility lies with the information ministries and mass media to help spread education through well-planned programmes which would supplement efforts of ministries of education in providing education to all children and eradicating illiteracy from the Third World, the report said.

According to the report, the delegates are in agreement on the need to link basic education with local environment and the needs of local society. They also stress the need to give proper attention

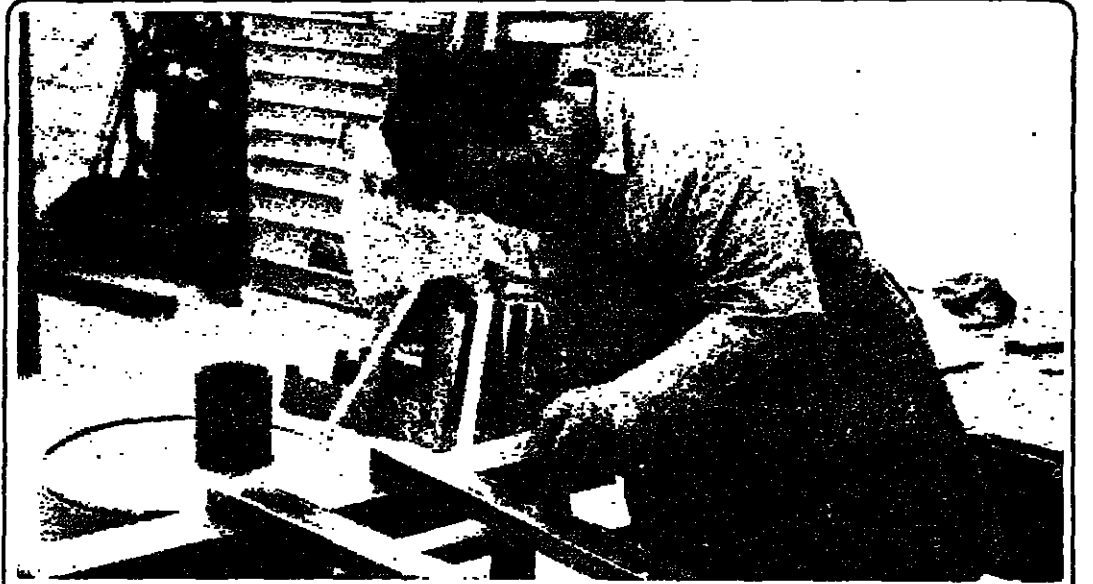
to special education for handicapped students.

The delegates called for further involvement of international and regional organisations in national and regional plans for education to achieve the goal of education for all by the year 2000.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), one of the organisers of the meeting, said that 100 million primary school-age children were not in school and one in five adults around the world was illiterate.

"In the Arab World," UNICEF said in a statement on the eve of the Amman meeting, "nearly 62 million people out of a total population of 200 are believed to be illiterate."

UNICEF said the purpose of the conference next year was to bring together world leaders, government delegations from all countries, government and non-governmental organisations, and educators with the aim of forging a global commitment to providing good quality primary schooling for all children around the world and essential knowledge and skills for adults to cope with the demands of the modern society.



A handicapped youth at work in YMWA's workshop (YMWA photo)

Helping disabled to help themselves

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

SAHAB — Loud noises from different types of machines dominate the room. Green machines of all shapes and sizes fill the space. There is a strong yet pleasant smell of wood filling the air. But, these senses are overshadowed by the young men and women at work behind the machines. They proudly gleam over the end product of their own makings; wooden and metal furniture.

A typical scene, one might say, from a typical workshop anywhere in the world. But, there is a big difference here in Sahab; these wood and metal workers are handicapped men and women who have been brought into the sheltered workshop, a department under the umbrella of the Young Muslim Women's Association (YMWA) to enable them to contribute to society and help themselves despite their physical disabilities. They are young people who have proven that the handicapped can achieve and be beneficial to the community if they are given the chance. They earn a living through their work while they are trained in preparation for the outside world, where handicapped and "normal" people must be brought together.

Forty-two children are bound closely together to make up the total workforce of the workshop," says Nazih Hijazi, administrator of the sheltered workshop at the YMWA in Sahab. They are trained on different machines for periods varying from two months to two years. Once they are ready, they can begin working in an outside environment.

The idea of the workshop is to provide opportunities to the handicapped children within and outside a protected environment and "to enhance the children's independence and to heighten the awareness of the community," Hijazi said.

The workshop also aims at setting a model to other similar establishments.

According to Hijazi, there are other departments under the umbrella of YMWA, which is chaired by Her Royal High-

ness Princess Sarvath, "who created YMWA and worked towards its success with unmatched efforts." The Princess Sarvath College for Girls is one of the departments. The school consists of 200 students who are trained in child care.

Hijazi added that the YMWA's centre for special education cares for handicapped children and offers education from kindergarten to vocational training levels. At present, the centre has 160 students.

"When they graduate, the children move into the sheltered workshop where a maximum of 50 children can be accommodated," Hijazi said. Depending on the child's capabilities he/she is paid a monthly salary anywhere from JD 15 to JD 42.

When the centre was first established in 1987, it had only 12 handicapped children in its workforce, and "the production level was low and was based on orders," Hijazi added.

But now, with the dramatic increase in students, mass production has become feasible. Seven hours a day and six days a week result in the production of 450 school desks and 80 office desks a month and one bedroom set every day, according to Hijazi.

"Such a high production level has also been made possible through good machines, which are simple to use and include safety devices," Hijazi explained.

A Japanese team of experts, who liaise between the Japanese government and YMWA has been donating such machines to the department since it was first established. According to Hijazi, the team has also contributed to the layout, design, and maintenance of the project.

The Japanese experts include two trainers who have been providing wood and metal work courses to the staff.

In a gathering last Monday, the Japanese presented new machinery for wood and metal work, including office equipment and vehicles.

According to one of the Japanese experts, "We have to ensure that the designs of the machines and the nature of the work meet the needs of the

handicapped children." The machines are semi-automatic, restricting them to perform single functions. "This method allows even a paraplegic child to perform a task with the use of one hand," the expert explained.

Hijazi said that one of the major problems facing the project was people's reluctance to furnish produced by handicapped people. "We have been urging institutions, especially government institutions, to give the handicapped children a chance," he said.

The workshop manufactures its own millium wood, which is not manufactured anywhere else in Jordan, according to Hijazi. But, the remaining types of wood are imported from Europe, so the quality of furniture is very good, he said. "We are a non-profit organisation selling at half the price of imported furniture but we cannot depend on the local market. We are aiming to mass produce and sell to neighbouring countries," Hijazi said.

Another problem facing the project is that the machines provided by Japan are designed to use materials which are not available in Jordan. Imports are the only resort.

"But we do not get becoming increasingly difficult to keep the costs down," Hijazi said. He added that sub-contracting from a big contractor would reduce the problem. The workshop can become more specialised and more quantities can be produced which will ultimately reduce the costs, he said.

Hijazi foresees a possibility to expand the building to allow for more space and consequently a safer environment. He added that expanding the building would allow YMWA to accommodate and serve more children, "and ultimately we hope to provide residence for orphan handicapped children."

Hijazi expressed satisfaction with the development of the workshop since its establishment and added that "the greatest pleasure is seeing these handicapped children, who have not found a place in society, actually achieving something and feeling needed."

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

KING CONGRATULATES ASSAD: His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on the anniversary of the corrective movement in his country. He wished the president continued health and happiness and further progress for the Syrian people (Petra).

KING CONGRATULATES BULGARIAN LEADER: His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday cabled congratulations to Bulgarian President Petar Mladenov for being appointed as president of Bulgaria. His Majesty also congratulated Egon Krenz for assuming the presidency in the Democratic Republic of Germany (Petra).

PRAYER RUG EXHIBITION: Her Highness Princess Wijdan Ali Wednesday opened an exhibition of Anatolian prayer rugs at the University of Yarmouk on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's Birthday anniversary. The exhibition, which the Princess opened on behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, includes a rare and precious collection of rugs which West German Ambassador to Jordan Herwig Bartels had collected (Petra).

SUDAN ENVOY LEAVES: A Sudanese envoy left Amman Wednesday after delivering a message to His Majesty King Hussein from the chairman of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command and National Salvation Council, Omar Al Bashir. The message was delivered to the King by Colonel Mohammad Al Amin Khalifa, who was seen off upon departure by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salem Masaadeh and Sudan's ambassador to Jordan Radwan Mahjoub.

125 TRAINEES GRADUATE: A total of 125 female trainees graduated Wednesday from the Hamlan Community Centre after completing training courses in dress making, weaving and knitting, typing, flower arrangement and other crafts. The trainees spent four months in their courses conducted under the supervision of specialists from the Ministry of Social Development.

PSYCHIATRISTS MEET IN PARIS: The Amman-based Arab Federation of Psychiatrists is taking part in a five-day international conference, which opens in Paris Thursday to discuss working papers dealing with drug addiction and alcoholism. Federation Chairman Dr. Adnan Takriti said the conference, which has been organised in cooperation with the Arab-French Mental Health Society, would discuss drug abuse, drugs which adversely affect mental capacity, biological reasons behind addiction, alcoholism and other related topics. Psychiatrists from around the world and Arab countries will take part in the conference, according to Takriti.

CHARLES DE GAULLE SEMINAR: The Arab Thought Forum (ATF) is organising a two-day seminar here Saturday on "Charles de Gaulle and the Arab World." An ATF statement said Wednesday that delegates from France and the Arab World will start arriving for the meeting Thursday and will leave Nov. 20. It said that the delegates will discuss world-wide liberation wars, de Gaulle and people's rights, de Gaulle's view on the Middle East conflict during 1967-1969, Jamal Abdul Nasser and de Gaulle, Europe and Egypt, de Gaulle and Lebanon's independence and de Gaulle and relations with Syria (Petra).

FRENCH RESEARCH EXHIBITION ENDS: A French "Research and Technology exhibition" at the French Cultural Centre ends today. It presented the latest works of French researchers and engineers. The exhibition was accompanied by video films. Many achievements were the striking proof of the French scientific and technological vitality. Names of French researchers associated to great discoveries, the recent success of the Ariane rocket and a Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1987. The exhibition ran from Nov. 5-Nov. 16.

SUHEMAT RECEIVES INVITATION: Greater Amman Mayor Ali Suheimat received an invitation from Cairo Mayor Mahmoud Shafiq to visit Cairo to follow up the implementation of the fraternity and cooperation agreement signed between Amman and Cairo in 1988 (Petra).

RJ FOLKLORE TROUPE: The Royal Jordanian (RJ) troupe held a number of folkloric performance in the American cities of Chicago and Detroit last month. The performance were attended by Jordanian and Arab communities in the two cities.

ENGINEERING WORKSHOP: An engineering workshop organised by the mechanical engineering department at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) concluded Wednesday. The five-day workshop, entitled "Industrial Processes — evaluation and performance," was aimed at reviewing the performance of industrial processes, equipment maintenance and predicting failures and how to solve them. At the end of the workshop, in which 37 engineers took part, participants received certificates (Petra).

JORDAN PAVILLION WINS MEDAL: The Jordanian Pavilion at the Baghdad International Exhibition won a gold medal. This was reported during a ceremony held Wednesday in honour of the countries and companies participating in the exhibition (Petra).

ACC MEETING: The first conference of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) universities is due to convene in Tanta in Egypt next Wednesday with the participation of the ACC universities presidents and vice presidents. The three-day conference is scheduled to discuss the ACC agreement whose second article calls for integration and coordination among the ACC states and the exchange of expertise in the fields of education and technology in addition to issues of common interest (Petra).

Bonn gives Jordan helicopters to help fight drug trafficking

AMMAN (J.T.) — West Germany Wednesday presented Jordan with three helicopters to be used in police work, especially in fighting smuggling and drug trafficking.

"The gift is a token of friendship and in recognition of the progressing ties of cooperation between Jordan and West Germany," West German Ambassador to Jordan Herwig Bartels said in a statement at the presentation ceremony attended by Public Security Department (PSD) Director-General Fadel Ali Fheid and other PSD officers and West German embassy staff.

"Bonn's technical assistance to the PSD is in recognition of the department's remarkable efforts in combatting crime, especially drug trafficking on the regional

and international levels," Bartels said.

The West German Ministry of Interior hopes to promote cooperation with the PSD and, through a technical protocol signed earlier by the two sides, will develop its cooperation with the PSD in the exchange of information and other activities to counter drug trafficking, the ambassador said.

Fheid voiced Jordan's appreciation to the West German government for the gift which, he said, came as a "fruit of close cooperation between Bonn and Amman in fighting crime."

"Drug trafficking is plaguing the whole world and threatening mankind," he said. "Hence international cooperation to combat such danger is badly needed,"

Fheid said.

Last year, West Germany presented the PSD with another three helicopters specially equipped to monitor traffic movement and control border areas against drug trafficking and smuggling operations.

The helicopters, according to PSD officials, are fitted with special cameras and other equipment to detect smugglers' movements and road accidents specially on the highways.

The PSD announced Nov. 4, the capture of 12 people from Jordan and other Arab states following attempts to smuggle drugs through for neighbouring countries. The PSD said the 12 were trying to peddle a total of 625 kilograms of hashish with a street value estimated at JD 187,000.

Baqaa camp gets new school building

AMMAN (J.T.) — A new school building for refugee children in Baqaa camp was inaugurated Wednesday by Dr. Ahmad Qatani, director-general of the Department of Palestinian Affairs.

The building, with its furniture and equipment, valued at some \$800,000 was donated by the Government of the People's Republic of China. The school replaces a dilapidated prefabricated structure and consists of 22 classrooms, three administrative offices, a library, a laboratory and a multi-purpose room as well as other facilities.

The construction work, which was completed in one year, was carried out by 31 Chinese engineers and technicians who work for COMPLAINT (a Chinese construction company) and who

came from China for this particular purpose.

The school, which has features of Chinese architecture, will cater for some 2,100 refugee boys from Baqaa camp. The camp accommodates over 70,000 refugees and displaced persons.

Present at the ceremony were Ele Saaf, director of the United Nations Relief Works Agency (UNRWA) affairs in Jordan, the Chinese charge d'affaires, Faleh Gharaybeh, governor of Balqa, representatives of COMPLAINT, as well as senior government and UNRWA officials and a large number of refugee notables.

UNRWA operates 197 schools in Jordan, which provide primary education for about 134,000 refugee children with a staff of about 3,500 teachers.

Royal Jordanian to train 160 pilots from Turkey

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ) will provide training to 160 Turkish pilots on its Airbus 310 simulators in Amman, under an agreement signed Wednesday between RJ and the Turkish airlines.

A statement issued by RJ said that training sessions for the Turkish pilots would start Jan. 15, 1990 and will last for three months, according to the agreement signed by RJ Training Centre Director Mousa Anz.

RJ's new arrangement marks the second agreement of its kind for providing training at its sim-

ulators training unit provided by the Airbus manufacturing company in France, Thomson CSF.

Last summer, RJ announced that the centre would provide training to a group of pilots from Air France. Four of the group would be arriving in Amman for training in January 1990, Wednesday's RJ statement added.

The simulators are highly advanced, with a modern instructor station which is a computer-assisted system utilising touch sensitive screens.

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Mohammad Al Qaddoumi displaying oil and watercolour paintings depicting nature in Jordan, at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ A book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ A photographic exhibition on Jordan at the Royal Cultural Centre, the Exhibition Hall.
- ★ An art exhibition by Sanaa Bourini and Abir Abu Judeh at Alia Art Gallery — 5:00 p.m.

CONCERT

- ★ Arabic music concert by the Yarmouk University musical group at the Royal Cultural Centre — 7:00 p.m.

FILM

- ★ A feature film entitled "Rain Man" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.



Bezzam Al Saket

Zarka Basin project progressing

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Agriculture Bassam Al Saket Wednesday visited the site of the Zarka River Basin agricultural project, where 1,000 dunums were planted with forest trees to help provide protection to the soil.

The minister, who was accompanied by officials and agricultural experts, was told that the trees had been planted on both sides of the Zarka River along a total distance of 27 kilometres to help stop soil erosion.

The minister's tour covered Jerash, Ruman, Sukmech and their adjacent areas where he inspected work in the course of the soil preservation and pasture land projects in these areas.

The officials briefed the minister on the progress of work and the amount of work already done.

The planting of trees and shrubs and the creation of pastures constitutes the second stage of a three-phase programme being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture in the course of executing a JD 32 million project in the Zarka River Basin.

Officials said that a total of 125,000 dunums of land will be planted with trees within the programme, which is being financed through loans from Arab and foreign institutions and the West German government.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Turn inwards

THE BUSH-Gorbachev summit in the Mediterranean next month is projected to deal first and foremost with the rapid changes in Eastern Europe, especially in East Germany, that have reshuffled the cards in East-West relations and brought forth an entirely new ball game. The impact of such positive developments on the Arab-Israeli conflicts are clearly certain. To begin with, the conflicts of the Middle East are bound to be relegated to the backburner as issues of lesser urgency than the events that are sweeping through East and West Germany. The perspectives of the superpowers towards the Palestinian conflict, for example, will be influenced by the rapid shifting sands in Continental Europe and what they have engendered in superpower relations. Only after the events in East Europe have settled down Moscow and Washington will take time off to deal with the Middle East conflicts with new ground rules that are yet to be spelt out.

Therefore, the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflicts are in for many surprises among which is the removal, for time being at least, of the Palestinian conflict from the list of high priorities for Moscow and Washington. The immediate beneficiary of all this would be of course Israel, which excels in profiting from the growing estrangement between the superpowers. As Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's posture over the game now is procrastination by all means, the downgrading of the Arab-Israeli conflicts by Moscow and Washington would perfectly suit the strategy of Tel Aviv to thwart the momentum for peace in the Middle East that was artificially induced of late.

The Arab side must therefore take immediate stock of the emerging situation in the world and act accordingly. Above all, the Palestinian side needs to reexamine its options and reevaluate its strategy for achieving a just settlement of the Palestinian conflict. There are now new bearings which must be reckoned with in charting the course of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. Likewise, there are simply too many landmines sprouting in the landscape everywhere the Palestinian side is turning. Which way to turn has thus become fraught with new dangers and lobytraps for the Palestinian party. Most of all, the Arab side can no longer depend on East-West consensus that may emerge out of the Gorbachev-Bush summit to come to their rescue. They will have to look elsewhere for help and the best place to look is within themselves.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday described the Palestinian intifada as being strong as ever following the end of its 23rd month; and said that the Palestinians seem determined to carry on their heroic struggle to the end. The continuation of the uprising despite Israel's repressive measures and inhuman practices, said the paper, constitutes an embodiment of the Palestinian people's will, their rejection of capitulation and their sincere belief in peace based on justice. The uprising is indeed a manifestation of the Palestinian entity and the Palestinian people's identity, a fact which was strengthened with the severance by Jordan of all links with the West Bank whose people are now assuming their independent role in the struggle for freedom, the paper said. Not only did Jordan help the Palestinians in this regard, but it also is adopting an attitude that can lead the strongest backing for the people of Palestine in all international forums, the paper continued. It said that Jordan is maintaining this attitude despite the pressures from other nations to change its position, and regardless of the Kingdom's economic difficulties.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Wednesday discusses the situation in Lebanon following the election of a new president and the almost total consensus by various parties to reach national reconciliation. Abdul Rahim Omar says that only Michel Aoun is now standing in the way of implementing resolutions reached by parliament members and this situation cannot be tolerated by the Lebanese people or by the Arab League which helped the parties to reach agreement. The writer noted that Syrian forces entered Lebanon in the first place in order to put an end to the fighting and not to complicate the situation; but their role was hampered by the conflicting positions of the warring factions. He says that Aoun should not be allowed to remain adamant and should be persuaded by the international community as well as the Arab countries to see what is right for his country.

Sawt Al Shabab Arabic daily commented on Lebanon and said that it is indeed regrettable that the Lebanese people should continue to suffer despite the presence of a golden opportunity for peace. The paper said that the various parties have come to an agreement on the need to endorse the national charter and the formation of a Lebanese government to take the country out of its dilemma, but it is also necessary to remove all elements obstructing a real and lasting peace as a first step. There is no doubt that the new president of Lebanon is capable of forming a national salvation government, but he first should be assisted by all the parties, Muslim or Christian, so that Lebanon can be saved from further destruction and sufferings, the paper added. The paper wished the Lebanese president success in his current endeavours to end the tragedy and implement the national charter that would bring about lasting peace to Lebanon.

Weekly Political Pulse

Make peace before it is too late

THE increase in the use of firearms by Palestinians in the occupied territories against Israeli soldiers in recent times gives food for thought and makes one think of the unthinkable. With all the preliminary negotiations that could lead to the projected Palestinian-Israeli talks getting nowhere, and the international community, especially the superpowers, more engaged and preoccupied than ever with the events in East Europe, the frustrations of the Palestinians under occupation could be reaching a boiling point that could easily spill over and lead to desperate actions including the escalation of the use of weapons against the Israeli occupying forces. In fact that is exactly what is beginning to happen in Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The exacerbation of the Palestinians appears now to have risen to new levels as the intifada enters its third year. Hardliners as well as moderates among the Palestinians could now argue, and with great effectiveness, that two years of basically a non-violent uprising have led them nowhere. So the stage is set for escalating the uprising in ways that could include the use of weapons.

Still the decision to resort to arms cannot be taken with impunity. What is even worse, any attempt to calculate in advance the price of turning the intifada into an armed conflict would remain speculative at best. It could be argued and with considerable logic and historical evidence that heating up the intifada could be playing into the hands of the Israelis. There is nothing more that Sharon, Levy and Modai would love more than to create a theatre for open armed conflict with the Palestinians with the avowed aim of transferring the people into the neighbouring Arab countries. This is almost axiomatic and a foregone conclusion. But this is not the entire point. Desperation often leads to seemingly counterproductive moves even to the degree that it

could be classified as suicidal. In more than one way, the deployment of arms would be like an act of last resort where the price tag becomes no longer relevant.

But as catastrophic as such a prognosis may appear, such a scenario is getting to be more and more probable with the passing of many months of endless and fruitless efforts to get the Israelis and Palestinians start their long awaited talks. The point that needs to be made now before it is too late is that the Middle East region is being pushed to the brink of another conflagration if the Palestinian situation is not defused and dealt with more vigorously. Indeed the scenario could not be more ominous: About one and a half million Palestinians lightly armed engaging a formidable force armed to the teeth. The casualties on the Palestinian side would be very heavy and the living conditions in the occupied territories could degenerate to the level of becoming intolerable. And then the stage would be set for Tel Aviv to begin the process of mass transfer of Palestinian people. The Palestinian people on the other hand are expected to offer very stiff resistance to mass transfer even if it reaches the level of genocide.

However, three things could happen meanwhile: Either the international community, especially the superpowers, would wake up to the carnage in the occupied territories and the international public opinion be mobilised to make international intervention inevitable; or the Arab World would become so cornered as to make the outbreak of hostilities between them and Israel inevitable; or there would be such an uproar within Israel that could propel a change of government and better still a change of heart about the Palestinian case and the broader Arab-Israeli conflict. It is worthwhile recalling in this context that in the Vietnam war the Vietcong played the card of American public opinion very cleverly by cultivating it all the way. The Palestinian

side needs to do the same. Either way, the end result would suggest that things may have to get worse before they begin to become better.

Of course all this gloom and doom scenarios would not and need not occur if the peace process in the Middle East gets really going. For such a thing to happen, one would expect the Bush-Gorbachev summit to take time to deal with the Middle East as a very high priority issue. One would hope that their attention could be attracted without the need to escalate the intifada and raise the stakes in the Middle East. Both superpowers have many potent cards to play vis-a-vis Israel, and with the necessary political will, the two nations can do wonders to achieve peace in the Middle East. Why they chose to ignore the Middle East region is therefore puzzling and what is worse self-defeating for both countries. To name only one card, Moscow has the immigration of Soviet Jews card which it can play out more masterfully should it decide to do so. The introduction of sophisticated Soviet weaponry to the Middle East or the lack of it could also be a mighty card that can be cleverly played. As for Washington it has hundreds and hundreds of cards to play. And with the Jewish-American community reported to be more dovish than Tel Aviv, the White House has infinite ways to move things forward.

The tragedy of it all is that while all the world keeps on watching the events of the Middle East unfold in more and more dramatic ways, it is not likely to move forward in defence of peace in the region before things turn worse. This appears to be the nature of things in international relations. And this seems to include the superpowers which have become callous to the needs of regions beyond their immediate concern.

Europeans fear German unification

By Peter Isale
Renter

LONDON — Europeans have been delighted by the dramatic scenes at the reopened Berlin Wall, but there is mistrust and nervousness at the prospect of a reunified Germany.

"I don't trust East or West Germany," 87-year-old Warsaw pensioner Jerzy Janicki said.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl may embrace the idea of reunification, but Europeans whose countries were the battleground for German expansionism — and their families the victims — know that nationalism can end in tragedy.

Younger Europeans seem less fearful of the possibility of a militarised Germany but may not welcome the economic power of a unified Germany with 80 million people.

"I am afraid of the economic consequences of a united Germany, which could overpower the rest of Europe," said 37-year-old Paris public relations agent Annie Vitali.

But like others she has faith in the ability of the 12 members of the European Community (EC) to maintain the unity and stability of the region enjoyed since the end of the war.

In Poland a survey by Solidarity daily newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza found 39.6 per cent favoured a unified Germany while a slightly smaller proportion opposed it.

In France the conservative Le Figaro on Monday said 60 per cent of Frenchmen believed reunification would be a positive development with only 19 per cent against the idea.

Even among those who were conquered, imprisoned or persecuted during World War II, there are conflicting views about the

dangers of a resurgence of German nationalism.

"I was overjoyed to see the wall fall, to see the return of freedom," said 73-year-old Polish-born French Jew Joseph Ajchenbaum. "But I'm also very worried at the prospect of a powerful united Germany. When the news about the wall broke West German MPs leapt up and sang 'Deutschland über alles'."

Ajchenbaum, a French legionnaire, he spent four and a half years in German prisoner-of-war camp while his two brothers and many relatives died in Nazi death camps.

In Amsterdam retired confection worker Willem Fijlman, 75, said the prospect of German reunification held few fears for him: "I hold no grudges against the German people of today. Germany has learnt from the

war. As far as I am concerned, they can be reunited next week they should demolish that wall."

Kohl says a united Germany, which he is constitutionally bound to pursue, will be a force for peace and leads for Europeans to accept the historical fact of a "whole" Germany.

"We demand a just and lasting peaceful order in Europe in which the German nation, too, will recover its unity in free self-determination," Kohl said in Poland on Monday.

But at the same time bands of right-wing extremists marched in Vienna calling for a return to greater Germany and in Poland ethnic Germans are again asserting their heritage.

"Helmut, you're our chancellor too" — "we want German language schools and church services," read banners at a mass attended by Kohl in Silesia.

In Eastern Europe where Hungarians, Czechoslovaks and

Russians see the breaching of the Berlin Wall as a beacon of hope, there is caution about reunification of Germany.

"I had a feeling of victory when they began knocking down the Berlin Wall, because any reforms in Eastern Europe are good for Hungary," said 65-year-old retired Budapest office worker Ilona Baranyi. "But the idea of a reunified Germany further ahead is rather frightening."

Interviews with Muscovites highlighted the dilemma facing Russians eager for political reform and freedom but fearful of completely shedding the Communist ideology of the revolution.

Artist Irina Rusakova, 33, said the passion for freedom should overcome any fears of German nationalism: "The most impor-

tant thing is for people to move about freely. All my friends are delighted, we only wish we could do the same."

But driver Dmitry Uspensky, 58, said a unified Germany was a threat to European stability. Besides, he said, Communism had much to offer: "We have problems but our Socialism is still better for a working man than capitalism."

In Britain travel writer Trevor Mostyn, 43, welcomed the scenes of liberty but feared a history might repeat itself.

"Watching millions of Germans clambering over the wall is wonderful and then one looks back in history and it can be quite frightening," Mostyn said. "Everytime one felt affectionate about Germany, this enormous power emerges. After the euphoria there must come the doubt of what happens next."

Superpower tensions ease in Africa

By Reid G. Miller
The Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — As in other parts of the world, the years of cold war confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union appear to be ending in Africa.

No more do the superpowers compete vigorously and openly for supremacy in the strategic corners of the continent. Less and less can client states and insurgencies count on an abundant flow of money, arms and other support from the world's two mightiest nations.

In fact, the superpowers have worked in tandem to try to end a civil war in Angola and bring independence to Namibia and their official utterances on the question of apartheid in South Africa sound remarkably alike.

The growing rapprochement between the old adversaries bodes well for some African countries. They are under less pressure to line up with one superpower or another, and can forge aid and trade ties with whomever they wish.

But this had done little to advance peace and prosperity for the vast continent as a whole.

"Even if one could stamp out the effects of war, mismanagement and corruption overnight, the economies of most African countries would still take years and years to recover," said a Western diplomat based in Kenya.

The great majority of Africa's economies have slipped backward throughout the 1980s, a decade of healthy growth in the rest of the world.

And because they were never highly advanced in the first place, even the unlikely prospect of a fast economic recovery in the 1990s would leave most African countries far behind the developed nations.

Meanwhile, even as the United States and the Soviet Union reduce their geopolitical manoeuvres in Africa, the potential for conflict remains high between and within many of the continent's nations.

Just a few months ago, peace seemed to be blossoming like a desert rose in Africa, nourished by a gentle rain of good works from Moscow and Washington.

A ceasefire was negotiated between warring factions in Angola; a bitter, costly conflict in Mozam-

bique appeared headed for the conference table; a new military regime seized power in Sudan with a promise to end that country's civil war; and the Ethiopian government sat down with Eritrean rebels in Atlanta, Georgia, in a bid to end what at 28 years is the continent's oldest armed dispute.

In recent weeks, however, those visions of peace have faded like a Saharan mirage.

Despite admonishments from Moscow and Washington, fierce new fighting erupted in Angola between the Soviet-backed government and UNITA rebels supported by the United States. Preliminary peace talks between church leaders representing Mozambique's Marxist government and right-wing Renamo guerrillas came to naught. Ethiopia's Marxist government publicly urged to seek peace and threatened with an arms cutoff by Moscow, came under new, threatening attack by Tigrean rebels even as it sought terms with the secessionist Eritreans. And civil war in Sudan is flaring anew with little hope of quick resolution.

New conflicts unrelated to the superpowers also have erupted. Intercommunal violence between Mauritania Arabs and Senegalese blacks took hundreds of lives in those neighbouring West African countries, which continue to hurl insults and threats at each other. And rival clans seeking power in Somalia, which forms the very tip of East Africa's horn, are killing each other in disputes that date back to ancient clashes over water holes and grazing territories.

Still, there are a few bright spots and some hopeful signs.

With elections scheduled next week, Namibia appears well and truly on the path to independence in a U.S.-brokered scheme that also brought the short-lived ceasefire in Angola.

Most diplomats feel the renewed fighting in Angola will end soon, with Washington pressuring Jonas Savimbi, the rebel who heads UNITA, to return to the bargaining table with President Eduardo dos Santos.

Lasting peace in Angola could bring a real measure of prosperity to the former Portuguese colony, an abundantly fertile land rich in oil, gas, diamonds, iron ore and other minerals.

Few African countries are as

potentially wealthy as Angola. Poor to begin with and suffering variously or collectively from years of colonial neglect, intertribal conflicts, falling world prices for their basic exports, wars and famines, many have compounded their problems through mismanagement.

In the years after World War II, when most of Africa began shaking off the colonial yoke, country after country turned to Marxist-Leninist theory for economic guidance. In almost every case, that guidance led to ruin.

Today, even such avowedly Marxist states as Angola, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zimbabwe are turning towards free-market policies, adopting stringent economic controls and lining up for loans from those twin bastions of capitalism, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Investors, however, are not exactly stumbling over each other in a chase for African profits. That's especially true in the majority of countries without proven deposits of oil or minerals.

Even stable countries like Kenya, which rejected the socialist path when it came to independence 26 years ago, are having trouble attracting major foreign investments.

The continent lacks infrastructure and well-educated workforce. Thus, experts note, African countries are at a disadvantage when they compete for investment funds with Taiwan, Korea, Singapore and the other

emerging nations of Asia.

Nor can Africa's nations look to much increased aid in trying to build the schools, highways and reliable power and communications systems they need to successfully compete in an increasingly complex world.

The United States last year contributed \$743 million aid to sub-Saharan Africa, less than Congress approved for the contra rebels in Nicaragua. In 1985, the United States provided \$1.22 billion in aid to the sub-Sahara, but the contributions have fallen since then because of budget constraints.

The Soviet Union, having trouble feeding its own people, gave very little beyond military supplies to a few client states.

The 12 nations of the European Community, Japan and other donors provided about \$13 billion, much of which went for such bare essentials as food and improved water supplies. Most economists do not believe the overall aid figures will increase significantly through the 1990s.

John Barratt, director for the independent South African Institute of International Affairs in Johannesburg, sums up the effect of superpower rapprochement on Africa in these words:

"In spite of the new and hopeful international mood, including in our region of Africa, one has to recognise that not one of the regional conflicts in different parts of the world has yet been resolved. Euphoria is therefore premature."

OPEN FORUM

All over the hill

SOME Abdul Hamid Sharaf School children recently (Oct. 22) went in a school trip to Qasr Al Rabab and Dibbin National Park. I was one of several supervisors accompanying the children on this trip. What we saw at the park that day is a matter of great concern to all of us. We spent most of our time and a half hours there in and around the wonderful children's playground and resthouse. However, just opposite and up the hill from the playground we saw so much garbage spread all over the top of the hill that we may as well have been on top of the Amman City Dump. As a result, our school has decided to make another trip to Dibbin on December 3, 1989 in order to clean up some of the refuse lying around. The date has been chosen as close as possible to the United Nations declared International Volunteer Day on December 5, 1989. I would like to see the remaining lines to appeal to picnickers and tourists to have more respect for Jordan's national parks and tourist attractions. It is a simple matter to take a trash bag with us on a picnic in addition to our meat, charcoal, and barbecue grill.

Tarek F. Dahdah
Abdul Hamid Sharaf School, Swaffiyah

Europe must now take the lead

The following editorial is reprinted from the London-based Middle East International.

THE FATE of Mr. Arie Nathan, the veteran peace campaigner now in prison in Israel because he went to see Yasser Arafat, is instructive. It illustrates vividly the hazards of trying to make peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

The Americans have learned this lesson well. Officials in Washington, faced from all sides with the criticism that the Bush administration has no Middle East policy, insist that they are trying to bring Israel into discussions with the Palestinians. But which Palestinians? And how dare they try? Prime Minister Shamir's refusal to consider negotiations with the PLO has so far prevented the implementation of his own six-month old "initiative", which envisaged elections in the occupied territories from which would emerge Palestinian representatives with the authority to negotiate some form of autonomy under Israeli rule. But Mr. Shamir knows as well as everyone else (including the Americans) that any elections are bound to produce leaders loyal to the PLO. If Mr. Shamir declares in advance that he and his government will have nothing to do with the winners, he can hardly expect his proposal for elections to be taken seriously.

Nor is it — except by the Americans. To everyone else it was plain from the outset that Mr. Shamir was only manoeuvring to gain time. However, the American secretary of state, James Baker, welcomed it, on the reasonable assumption that if Mr. Shamir could be persuaded to take even a symbolic step in the direction of negotiations, he might find it hard not to engage one day in the real thing. Mr. Baker added that the proposal needed amplification if it was to serve any useful purpose — and then he demonstrated, like others before him, the impotence of American policy-makers in the face of Israeli obstinacy and prevarication. For Mr. Shamir, instead of amplifying his proposal, began at once to limit its scope, in response to objections from the hard-liners in his own party, and declared — speaking in reality for only one half of his divided cabinet — that, whatever happened, Israel would never negotiate with anyone connected, however remotely, with the PLO.

If Mr. Baker at this point had taken a firm line with the Israelis (in which he would certainly have had the backing of America's allies in Europe), he might in fact have pushed Mr. Shamir into a position from which there was no going back. And the secretary of state did indeed raise fleeting hopes with his speech to the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) in May, when he urged the Israelis to lay aside "the unrealistic vision of a Greater Israel." But then, under strong pressure from the pro-Israel lobby, Mr. Baker drew back, and since then, with the administration distracted by other preoccupations, there has been nothing to suggest that the United States is putting any real effort into the elusive "peace process" in the Middle East. The reason is clear enough: any movement towards peace must require Israel to abandon its present extreme position, and neither President Bush nor his secretary of state is willing to risk the hostility of the pro-Israel lobby by adopting any position unwelcome to Israel. And the lobby's stranglehold on both houses of Congress appears stronger than ever.

In these circumstances, European impatience is mounting. For years the Americans have argued that, since they alone commanded the necessary leverage with both sides in the Middle East, no one else should interfere with their management of the peace process. But if the leverage is not used, or used to bring pressure only on one side, for reasons of domestic American politics, then others will have to take the lead if the search for peace is not to be abandoned altogether.

At their summit meeting in December, the leaders of the European Community should assume this responsibility. They should set out as clearly as possible their ideas about a solution to the conflict over Palestine and about the best way of achieving it. They should then, in close cooperation with the Soviet Union, draft a resolution to be introduced in the Security Council, calling for direct negotiations between Israel and the PLO, preferably within the framework of an international conference. If this produces no immediate result, it will at least disperse the clouds of confusion with which the Israelis have obscured the peace process. For what is preventing progress, as Arie Nathan learned, is the refusal of Mr. Shamir to let the Israelis come face to face with the PLO, as they must do if they really want peace. And the Americans, who know this, are too supine to say so.

Focus on People

Without malice

By Marian M. Shain

AS THE sun sets in the horizon, the working class neighbourhood of Haj Nazzal becomes calmer, and quieter and assumes a totally different shape than a thriving commercial area. Only the dim lights peering out of the small windows indicate that people are not yet asleep. One house does catch the attention of all passers by. It is decorated with lights and is obviously full of people. The one-storey house was the election headquarters of a newly elected member of Parliament called Sheikh Abdul Munem Rifaat Abu Zant. The name may be familiar because, along with the names of other Muslim Brotherhood and "Islamic" candidates, it has been making the rounds in west Amman, as many West Ammanites were surprised about the strong showing of "Islamists" in last week's elections.

As many Jordanians began worrying whether alcohol will be forbidden except to Christians and tourists and whether the wearing of the Islamic hijab will be enforced on all Muslim Jordanian women, Sheikh Abdul Munem Rifaat Abu Zant spoke to Focus on People.

Wearing an Islamic robe and an ammar al sheikh (the traditional headpiece of an Islamic clergyman), Abu Zant bade his guests welcome. In the presence of six journalists, three Jordanian and three foreign, four female and two male, Abu Zant sat down, took off his headpiece and introduced himself. Since he studied at the Al Azhar University in Cairo and the University of Baghdad he preferred to speak to the journalists in Arabic, and a translation for the foreign journalists was necessary. Thus one of the Jordanian journalists made a simultaneous translation.

"My name is Abdul Munem Rifaat Abu Zant," he starts. "I was born in the city of Nabulus in 1937. I studied Islamic Sharia at Al Azhar in Cairo and at the University of Baghdad where I received bachelor and masters degrees respectively. I came to Jordan after my expulsion by the Israeli authorities from Nabulus in September 1967. After having served a prison term of 21 days out of the six months I was sentenced to, the Israelis expelled me. I was thus one of the first to be expelled after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war."

His status as that of a "deportee," had already guaranteed Abu Zant a warm welcome not only from his co-religionists but also from his compatriots, many of whom had found themselves on the East Bank of the River Jordan as a result of the 1967 war.

Abu Zant held several teaching jobs in Jeddah and Medina in Saudi Arabia before he returned to Jordan in 1969. Upon his return he was appointed as a lecturer of Islamic thought and philosophy at the Public Security Department (PSD), a job of which he was relieved from in 1972. According to Abu Zant, the head of the department did not agree with his teachings! After spending another year in Jordan teaching "Islamic culture and philosophy" at the Islamic College, Abu Zant left Jordan for Kuwait to continue working as a teacher. In 1981 he returned to Jordan again.

From 1981 until last week, the sheikh spent his time teaching at a community college, and giving private lessons and sermons during Friday prayers at mosques.

Although Abu Zant was not allowed to preach in mosques he did so anyway. "I was forbidden to work because I was questioning laws that contradict Islam and the well-being of society," he says.

Although the Jordanian government has controlled appointments of mosque preachers and monitored their sermons since 1985, Abu Zant seems to have slipped through these well guided checks. And he was to pay dearly for it.

During the years in which he preached clandestinely he was arrested three times under the prime ministership of Zaid Rifai. His arrests in 1985, 1986 and 1989, Abu Zant says, were not "justified," although he mentions that he actively criticised the Rifai government from the mosque podium.

Before he ran for Parliament Abu Zant thus had an impressive record of, let us say, a "desecrating opinion," which he would not keep to himself no matter what. In the biggest campaign rally in

Jordan, held one week before the elections, he declared to an audience of approximately 8,000 fans that "Islam is the solution," to which the crowd responded in a chorus "Islam is the solution." A week later 19,343 voters made him the number one winner from his working-class electorate.

Abu Zant expressed absolute satisfaction about the outcome of the election results. He believes that the election of over 30 Islamists and Muslim Brotherhood members to the Lower House of Parliament is in accordance with the "natural flow" of Jordanian society. "The Islamic bloc won for several reasons; first, the people have confidence in the justice of Islamic thought; second, pan-Arab and leftist parties lack strong political thought and conviction. Third, tribalism and regionalism broke down when faced with Islamic conviction and strength," Abu Zant asserts.

His priorities in Parliament are multifold. "The number one priority for me is to assure economical and political as well as moral support for the intifada; secondly we must attempt to put the country back 'on course' — politically, economically, educationally, socially and culturally. By that I mean individual rights and moral rights must be secured. We must do our best to secure freedom of the press, respect for human dignity and freedom of movement and speech. On the hand, our society has been overwhelmed by moral delinquency which we must try to diminish."

"Furthermore, the road from economic stagnation to prosperity will only come through a self supporting economy, not one that depends on imports for its very survival," according to the sheikh.

"As far as judicial legislation is concerned, if Islamic laws were applied then a lot of the present discrimination along ethnic, regional and even religious lines would be decreased," Abu Zant asserted.

Considering the many social problems that come with the "opening up," often associated with Westernisation, of any society Islamists like Abu Zant have found green pastures to feed upon. With an increase of economic and social discontent and the past failures of political experiments in the Arab World with Arab nationalism and leftist ideologies, many have turned to religion as a solution. The phenomenon cannot be considered Islamic per se because people around the world have chosen their respective state religions as a comforting route to salvation in times of despair and solitude.

Answering the unspoken questions of many among his folk, Abu Zant says, "With the will of God and His Majesty justice will now replace tyranny in this government, class discrimination and injustice will be replaced by unity and capitulation will be replaced by peace."

In order to solve a "great part" of the foreign debt problem and recuperate some of the money Jordan needs to pay its \$8 billion foreign debt, Abu Zant believes that "legal means can be used to prosecute those responsible for the debt — which came about through illegal use of their official positions."

"After justice takes its course," Abu Zant is sure, "most of our debts will be covered."

Asked what kind of laws he would like to see introduced Abu Zant said he was in favour of banning alcohol and making Islamic dress mandatory for all Muslim women. "If the majority doesn't agree, then let it be, but I will have done my duty as a Muslim in trying to introduce such laws."

"Islam is democratic and thus nothing can or will be enforced," he said. "I will not support the introduction of laws that insult the intelligence of my people," he added.

As the interview came to an end Abu Zant thanked the interpreter for her honest translation. "I know you do not belong to our school of thought but you have not ridiculed us through your translation and I thank you for your honesty and absence of malice."

U.S. cash for Pacific nuclear fallout causes legal nightmare

By Giff Johnson

Reuters

MAJURO, Marshall Islands — A U.S. programme to pay millions of dollars in compensation for nuclear fallout over the Pacific has turned into a legal nightmare in the Marshall Islands.

A mass of litigation over who is entitled to the payments is tearing apart island communities which have traditionally been seen as large extended families.

The United States began payments three years ago to compensate islanders exposed to fallout from some of the 66 nuclear tests carried out from 1946 to 1958.

In an unprecedented treaty, Washington agreed to compensate people on Rongelap and Ujae atolls, 3,200 km southwest of Hawaii, for damage caused by explosions on nearby Bikini and

Eniwetok.

It promised to pay an annual \$2.5 million to the Rongelap people and 1.5 million for Ujae as part of a 15-year package worth a total of \$270 million.

The roughly 250 people initially exposed to the fallout have suffered from a high incidence of cancer, thyroid tumours and a variety of other health problems.

Local councils were elected to decide who was entitled to the money.

But residents from Rongelap and Ujae who have not been promised a share of the quarterly payments have hired an army of lawyers to plead their case and family members have been fighting it out in a series of bitter legal battles.

The population on the two atolls has expanded enormously, with islanders moving there to

establish connections, however tenuous, to the fallout.

There were 86 people living on Rongelap and 157 on Ujae at the time of the nuclear tests, but now more than 5,000 islanders claim the atolls are home and say they have a right to the money.

The Rongelap council filed a petition in October to dismiss claims by islanders who said they should get compensation even though they had never lived on the atoll.

Rongelap senator Jeton An-jain, who works with the council, said he and colleagues were trying to weed out residents who were exposed to radiation during or after the tests from those whose families are originally from the atolls but who never lived there.

Thaddeus Samson, who owns

land on Rongelap but does not live there, said the council's decision to deny him nuclear compensation payments was "a blatant violation" of an agreement with the United States.

That agreement, he claims, says the council must pay compensation for radiation damage to land as well as for people's health. Samson was not exposed to fallout from the nuclear testing.

"The Rongelap council chooses to ignore accepted cultural and traditional practices (when it comes to distributing the compensation)," he said.

With one exception, the Rongelap council pays only those people or their children exposed to fallout from the bravo hydrogen bomb test in 1954, or who have lived on Rongelap since.

American think tanks slip into the Zionist trap

The United States has always shown unmatched interest in strategic studies that is seldom found anywhere else in the world. This great concern can be traced back to the time of its historical isolation before the start of World War II, when the United States had no role to play in major world events in Europe and the Far East. This may explain its need to understand the repercussions of these events and their effects on its relations with the outside world.

As a result strategic centers in America were provided with adequate facilities that made them flourish in universities and official institutions and assume an importance not found in similar institutes in other parts of the world. The results of the studies conducted by these centres were no longer confined to political decision-making. American administrations would, in many cases, ask these specialised centres to prepare specific studies that might be used as guidelines for short-term as well as long-term strategies. In addition to military matters these studies would deal with political, economic, social and intelligence matters, thus reflecting an overall strategy.

The recent years have witnessed an increasing demand for specialists in strategic studies whose influence on executives is on the rise. Senators and Congressmen are seeking coordinated information on world problems to help them reach specific stands, and researchers joining American embassies and agencies abroad are directly serving American

foreign policy and interests.

However, these centres began to lose credibility with the start in the United States of the campaign to support the creation of the state of Israel on Palestinian soil. Having realised their growing influence in public opinion and decision making, American Zionist started to infiltrate strategic studies centres and influential media organs to propagate the ideas that would serve Israel's interests and strengthen its relations with the United States.

One of the leading Zionist elements in the service of Israeli interests is Samuel Huntington, the director of the International Studies Centre at Harvard University which is known for its close links with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). The relationship became evident recently in the wake of a number of scandals that marred American foreign policy. During the fifties Huntington directed his attention to study military institutions in the Third World countries. It was from that time on that the United States began to sponsor military men and use them to stage coups after its intelligence agencies found out that it was much easier to deal with the military than with politicians.

Another anti-Arab activist is Richard Pipes, also based in Harvard, who served on the National Security Council during Ronald Reagan's first term of presidency and was in charge of East European and Soviet affairs. His hatred for Arabs was taken over by his son Daniel who managed to join the editorial staff of *Orbit* magazine which is published by

the Foreign Relations Institute of the University of Pennsylvania. Under him the magazine, which had had a history of objective reporting, was turned into a Zionist platform full of contempt for Arabs.

Edward Letwack is another Zionist who devoted his academic life as a lecturer at the Centre for International and Strategic Studies in Washington to serve Israeli interests. He called for military intervention in Arab oil producing countries following the oil embargo.

Among the Zionist agents who utilise strategic research centres to propagate Israeli's views is Walter Laquer who is in charge of the International Research Centre at George Washington University, and who also edits the "Contemporary History" magazine. Using the academic cover, he began to lecture on the Arab Israeli conflict and American Soviet relations in a way that would present Israel as the defender of American interests. Together with Paul Robin he published a book on the Arab-Israeli conflict. Even after being invited by the Palestine Liberation Organisation to attend the last conference of the Palestinian National Council in Algiers, upon his return from the conference he began to spreading doubts on the council's resolutions.

Emus Berliantier is another Zionist who served as an advisor in Washington, during the Reagan golden era and, who always sought to justify Israel's acts of aggression against the Arabs by linking Israeli security and American strategic goals.

Joseph Shoba, a Jew of Syrian origin, is a close friend of Meir Kahane, member of the Israeli Knesset and an ultra rightist seeking to expel all Arabs from Palestine who founded the Jewish Defence League in the United States. Together with Richard Pearl who worked for seven years as assistant secretary of defence and who was accused by the Arab American Committee against Discrimination of spying for Israel, they are considered among the most anti-Arab Jews with great influence on the official American way of thinking. Shoba served as an adviser and speech writer for Reagan during his presidential campaign in 1980.

Shoba recently collected signatures of a number of retired American servicemen calling on Israel not to withdraw from the occupied Arab lands. In February, he called for holding a conference in Jerusalem, which was attended by former American government officials.

Nevertheless, in the eye of many experts Shoba is among the least experienced in Third World affairs despite the row created around him by Zionism which seeks to introduce him as an influential strategist. He urged the Bush administration to stop its dialogue with the P.L.O. But it seems his days and those of other strategy experts are over with the departure of the Reagan administration.

Israel's influence is also served by people sent by the Zionist state as visiting professors or researchers to famous universities and research centres in the United States. — Arab News

Ruins reveal Mayan civilisation started earlier than thought

By Lee Siegel

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Archaeologists who excavated a city in Guatemala's jungle have learned that Mayan civilisation emerged centuries earlier than previously thought, hundreds of years before the Christian era.

"Our findings indicate large-scale Mayan development, including huge temples and other stone buildings, were constructed during a period in which it was thought the most advanced form of construction was small villages," said Richard Hansen of the University of California-Los Angeles.

Hansen's research, announced Monday by UCLA, "is a very significant discovery," said Arthur Demarest, anthropology chairman at Vanderbilt University.

Archaeologists once believed advanced Mayan civilisation emerged about 300 A.D. and ended about 900 A.D. during what is described as the "classic period." Research conducted during 1978-83 at El Mirador, Guatemala, pushed that date back to 200 B.C.

But Hansen's 50-member team excavated the ancient city of Nakbe, 560 kilometres from Guatemala City, and determined that roughly 100 stone pyramids and other buildings dated to between 400 B.C. and 630 B.C. so did some of the 65,000 pottery

pieces, sculptures, figurines and other artifacts.

Dates can be determined by the radioactivity of carbon in organic material associated with buildings. Pottery is dated by comparison with the style of pottery from elsewhere in Central America.

"We have from 1000 B.C. to 600 B.C. a small village with wooden buildings," Hansen said in a telephone interview. "They all of a sudden — boom — they brought in rock and fill and buried the village and made platforms. On those they placed their buildings."

Hansen said Nakbe's buildings include 11- to 46-metre platforms and flat-topped pyramids, many of which are topped by three small temples and "sculpture depicting important gods and kings." The buildings are solid, without interior rooms.

The scale of construction "reflects the emergence of an administrative and religious elite" to command thousands of workers, Hansen said.

The research "is part of the most exciting Maya discovery of recent decades," said anthropologist John Graham of the University of California at Berkeley.

Stone sculptures and Hieroglyphic inscriptions at other sites had suggested "there was an earlier Mayan civilisation in the period when everybody was supposed to be simple farmers," Graham said. "Hansen provides

the first ample documentation of this earlier civilisation."

An archaeologist mapped some of Nakbe's architecture in 1962. Hansen first visited in 1987 and his team conducted the first full-scale excavation last February through April.

"An archaeologist mapped some of Nakbe's architecture in 1962. Hansen first visited in 1987 and his team conducted the first full-scale excavation last February through April. The research by Hansen and others from UCLA, Utah's Brigham Young University and Guatemala's University of San Carlos shows Nakbe is "the earliest major centre of Mayan civilisation yet found," UCLA said in a news release.

But Graham cautioned that "it may turn out there's an earlier one."

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Among the most important finds at Nakbe is a sculpture on a limestone slab that probably dates to about 400 B.C. and is about 3 metres tall, 1.2 metres wide and 46 centimetres thick, Hansen said.

The sculpture, showing two royal figures and a god, "is the earliest and largest pre-classic sculpture ever found," he said. "It depicts rituals, symbols of royalty and perhaps a royal transfer of authority from one ruler to another much earlier in time than we ever thought (possible) previously."

Other discoveries include seashells and Obsidian glass tools that indicate emergence of long-distance trade. There also are signs of a society taming its environment: gutter-like water collection systems on six buildings and 18-metre-wide stone-and-mud roads, Hansen said.

He said he believes transformation from village to city and advanced civilisation happened because trade and the need for water and transformation fostered emergence of an administrative and religious elite, which then ordered construction of temples.

Hansen's team faced difficult conditions at Nakbe, including a three-day, 64-kilometre hike from the nearest road. Water was hauled from a swamp 6 kilometres away. "It's real macho archaeology," Demarest said.

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World Bank seems pleased with Egyptian reform will

CAIRO (R) — Egypt has made new pledges to liberalise its state-dominated economy apparently satisfactory to the World Bank, renewing hopes of an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Economic sources said that during three weeks of talks with the World Bank which ended Tuesday, Egypt provided a specific three-year reform timetable for its public sector to begin from Jan. 1, 1990.

The reform would start with efforts to free public sector management from rigid state controls and bureaucracy. Price controls on many non-essential consumer goods would be gradually reduced and could be eliminated after three years, the sources said.

The World Bank refused to comment, but the economic sources said the delegation left Cairo in a very positive mood.

The IMF was expected to wait for signs of progress in World Bank talks before resuming its own negotiations with Cairo.

Egypt needs approval from both institutions to seek an accord to reschedule its \$50 billion foreign debt and win the respectability it needs to attract fresh foreign investment.

The key World Bank demand had been a reform of the public sector, one of the biggest outside the Socialist Bloc, providing everything from transport to chewing gum.

Public sector losses have been blamed for draining Egypt's economy and adding to a big budget deficit.

The IMF will focus on a reform of the complex multi-tiered exchange rate and a rise in interest rates.

Egypt needs IMF approval before it can go to the Paris Club of creditor nations to reschedule some \$5 billion of its total debt. Since July 1988, Egypt has effectively defaulted on most debt payments.

Hopes of an accord, running high over the summer, receded again in the autumn as Cairo and the IMF disagreed over the timetable for introducing reforms.

Egypt fears rapid economic reforms might unleash a wave of social discontent. The last riots in Cairo were in 1986.

But following progress with the World Bank, Egyptian officials have started to say again that an initial agreement with the IMF might be reached as early as December.

The Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development (ADFED) said it will lend Egypt \$75 million to finance a farming project.

The semi-official Al Itihad newspaper Wednesday quoted ADFED Chairman Nasser Al Nuweis as saying he would sign the loan agreement this week in Cairo.

The 30-year loan, with an interest rate of 3.5 per cent, will be used to finance reclamation of 60,000 hectares of land in Egypt, the paper said.



Jordanian and Tunisian officials discuss widening economic cooperation (Petra photo)

Premier receives Belid

Jordan, Tunisia review ties

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Tunisian joint economic committee opened a meeting in Amman Wednesday to review ways for promoting bilateral cooperation in trade, industry, tourism, air transport, scientific research and technology.

Industry and Trade Minister Ziyad Innab, who heads the Jordanian side to the meetings, addressed the opening session expressing Jordan's keenness on corroborating bilateral cooperation in the course of bolstering Arab economic integration.

Minister Al Munsif Belid reviewed Jordanian-Tunisian economic cooperation over the past years and paid tribute to both the private and public sectors in the two countries for the success of the economic cooperation process.

Belid voiced his country's support for the formation of Arab economic blocs which, he said, would pave the way for full integration among Arab states.

The Tunisian minister referred with satisfaction to the work of Jordanian and Tunisian trade

centres and the trade fairs which have been organised alternately in Amman and Tunis. He said the fairs and the trade centres were bound to increase the volume of trade between the two countries.

Belid said his country was determined to follow up successful economic cooperation in the fields of technology, tourism and scientific research.

Innab and Belid were received later by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker with whom they reviewed bilateral cooperation and the nature of the two-day meetings in Amman.

Saudi bauxite ore widens path for Arab aluminium industries

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia said Tuesday it had discovered bauxite ore which would supply Arab aluminium smelters and boost the region's aluminium industry.

"We are pleased to announce the discovery of bauxite ore in Saudi Arabia," Saudi Industry and Electricity Minister Abdul Aziz Al Zamil told the opening of the fourth Arab aluminium conference (ArabAl) in Bahrain.

The three-day conference is being attended by 400 delegates from 44 countries.

"We hope exploitation of these reserves will in the future supply Arab aluminium smelters and add more stability to the industry," he added.

Aluminium smelters in Bahrain and Dubai import most of the alumina, extracted from bauxite ore, mainly from Australia.

Industry officials say the Saudi bauxite reserves were substantial but would be expensive to mine due to their location in an uninhabited northern area of the Kingdom.

They said planned expansions of plants in Bahrain and Dubai and completing two new smelters in Qatar and Saudi Arabia will double Gulf aluminium production capacity to over one million tonnes a year by 1994, making the

area a major world producer. Abdullah Al Quweiz, assistant secretary general for economic affairs of the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), told ArabAl participants he hoped international markets would lift all barriers against Gulf aluminium products.

"We are ready to adopt the appropriate policies of cooperation between suppliers of raw material and also with industrial nations," he said.

"We hope our partners... will open their doors to our aluminium industries and not bar it from their markets," he added.

The GCC, a political and economic alliance grouping Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, wants the European Community to lift a six per cent tariff on its primary aluminium exports.

Meanwhile, Kuwait plans a \$60 million plant to produce calcined coke for Gulf aluminium smelters, industry sources said Wednesday.

"The plan to build a petroleum coke plant in Kuwait is... in the final stages of implementation," Khalid Al Feyer, chief executive officer of Kuwait-based Gulf Investment Corporation (GIC) told Reuters in Bahrain.

U.S. officials discuss leasing Gulf Arab oil

DUBAI (R) — U.S. energy experts are touring the Gulf to discuss how big Arab oil producers could help Washington fill its strategic petroleum reserve from fields which hold nearly two-thirds of the world's proven reserves.

"The tour is basically the annual oil discussions of the U.S. with Gulf producers, but this year the emphasis is on the strategic petroleum reserve (SPR)," an oil industry analyst in the Gulf said Wednesday.

The U.S. experts from the State Department and Department of Energy are led by John Easton, assistant energy secretary for international affairs and energy emergencies. The team is now in Riyadh.

They started their tour in the United Arab Emirates Nov. 6, then travelled to Kuwait before arriving in Saudi Arabia. Easton will visit Iraq Thursday to meet Iraqi oil officials.

"They have floated the idea of Gulf states leasing oil to the SPR, but the idea is quite new and concrete results are not expected immediately," another Gulf oil source said.

The U.S. team is particularly interested in finding out what sort of political and economic factors are deemed important by the big Gulf oil producers if they want to enter an oil leasing agreement with the U.S., an oil industry source said.

The idea of Gulf oil producers leasing oil to fill the SPR, set up as an energy cushion in case of a disruption to oil supplies, was mooted earlier this year by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Fiat starts building car plant in Algiers

TIARET, Algeria (R) — The presidents of Italy and Algeria Tuesday officially launched building work on the North African country's first car assembly plant, a joint venture with the Italian car maker Fiat.

Algeria's Chadli Benjedid and Italy's Francesco Cossiga unveiled a plaque, ushering in construction of the 2.1-billion dinar (\$260 million) plant set amid wheat fields 210 kilometres southwest of Algiers.

Italy has agreed to lend 90 billion lira (\$67 million) to help finance the project, designed to produce 30,000 units a year of Fiat's Uno model.

"We are looking at the development of the North African market of which Algeria is a principal part," Francesco Gallo, Fiat's director of international activities, told Reuters.

Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis told a news conference annual output could rise to 100,000 cars to serve the wider North African market.

The project was agreed in principle in 1987 between Fiat's automobile division and the Algerian state firm Entreprise Nationale De Production De Vehicules Particuliers (ENPVP) but a series of technical and financial accords were only finalised in recent weeks.

The project's capital is 410 million dinars (\$51 million), of which Fiat holds 36.4 per cent and ENPVP the rest.

The first cars are due off the assembly line in the first quarter of 1993. Fiat said it would be one of Africa's most technologically-advanced factories.

The two countries agreed to boost financial cooperation and build a fourth pipeline for Algerian gas exports to Italy.

In another energy sector, the Algerian state hydrocarbons concern Sonatrach has signed a protocol with the Anglo-Dutch oil giant Royal Dutch-Shell to explore cooperation in gas projects, the Algerian news agency AFS said.

The protocol covers potential future cooperation in the de-

velopment, sale and transport of natural gas, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), it said.

Algeria, one of the world's biggest gas exporters, hopes to increase output and sales to help its recovery from an economic crisis caused in part by the fall in world oil prices early in the 1980s.

Mines Minister Sadek Boussena has said Algeria wants foreign partners to share the massive development costs required.

APS said Sonatrach and Shell had already formed working groups to study the production of gas-oil, kerosene and other refined products directly from natural gas.

The two sides were also looking at ways to expand Algeria's gas liquefaction capacity and long-term LNG sales to the United States.

Algeria is expected to produce around 100 billion cubic metres of natural gas this year and to export around 29 billion cubic metres either as natural gas or LNG.

In the financial sector, Algerian bankers will visit Japan to discuss investment and financial opportunities opened up by Algeria's economic reforms, officials have said.

Central bank governor Abdelrahmane Hadj-Nacer and Economy Minister Ghazi Hedouci, accompanied by senior bankers will give details to Japanese bankers and officials of sweeping reforms which aim to revive Algeria's stagnant economy and attract foreign investment.

Hadj-Nacer said Algeria sought to form joint finance companies with foreign partners and explore ways of financing its \$24 billion foreign debt.

Officials said the main purpose of the trip was to explain the reforms, seen as the key to attracting new investment and financing. But a new loan would also be signed by the state Banque Extérieure d'Algerie.

The loan, with the Export-Import Bank and the Industrial Bank of Japan, will cofinance credits extended by the World Bank.

Oman wins Benson and Hedges contest

LONDON (Agencies) — In one of the closest and most exciting Grand Finals ever, the National Heaters Industries Co. of Oman have won the Grand Final of the Middle East Management Challenge, held at Ashridge Management College in the U.K.

The team, which won the championship for Oman for the first time ever in the Challenge's history, came through with style and stamina to leave the judges with no doubt about the team's superb performance. The Emirates Bank International Ltd, from Dubai, came a close second, while Ernst & Whinney from Kuwait a worthy third. Nine regional champions took part in the gruelling two-day exercise.

Mr. Tony Liddle, Personnel Director of Benson & Hedges awarded the prizes to the winners and the runners up, after the results were announced.

The winners received the Middle East Management Challenge Gold Medal, minted of 22 carat gold; a portfolio of gold shares

worth \$10,000 for each of them and a board-room trophy for their company. Other runners up also receive gold medals for their achievements.

After an exciting year in which the Middle East Management Challenge competition witnessed the expansion beyond the GCC to include Jordan, and also saw the first lady competitor through to the Grand Final stage, the competition has this year truly established itself as the ultimate and supreme management and business competition in the Middle East. Over its six year history, the Challenge has managed to attract increasing attention and enthusiasm from the region's top notch companies and the media alike.

The policy of Benson & Hedges to extend management expertise and professionalism to companies in the Middle East, has been genuinely appreciated by all who participate in it throughout the years.

Top Jordanian-Iraqi team meets next month

AMMAN (Petra) — The Iraqi-Jordanian ministerial committee is due to convene in the coming month to review Iraqi-Jordanian cooperation in a number of fields with special focus on trade, according to Mohammad Saqqaf, secretary-general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Saqqaf, who made the statement upon his return to Amman from a meeting in Baghdad, said that the two countries are moving ahead as planned to fulfil plans for increasing the volume of trade between them and that a report on trade issues will be submitted to the ministerial meeting next month.

Saqqaf headed a Jordanian team to a joint meeting on following up the implementation of joint projects.

Saqqaf said that the joint committee followed up resolutions by the Joint Jordanian-Iraqi Higher Committee meetings among other matters.

Supreme Soviet opens debate on property law

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet legislature Tuesday approved for nationwide discussion a proposal to loosen the state's hold on property, which backers say is the centrepiece of economic reform.

TASS news agency said the bill would give stock companies, collectives and cooperatives equal rights with the government, which now owns 80-90 per cent of the property in this vast country.

A blueprint for economic reform being discussed at a three-day conference of academics and managers that started Monday in Moscow says loosening controls on state ownership "is the fundamental basis for citizens' economic freedom."

"Renovation of property relations leads to settling the key problem of socialist economy — formation of long-term interest of enterprises and their staffs in optimum proportions of consumption and accumulation," said the report.

A report to be adopted by the conference is expected to become the basis for a detailed effort to heal the Soviet economy, which is suffering from strikes, shortages, hoarding and a near-worthless currency.

TASS said the bill discussed in the legislature Tuesday will be published along with several options, but it indicated it is unlikely to receive final legislative approval soon.

Legislators in the Supreme Soviet Tuesday rejected a call to bring the question up for final consideration at the Congress of People's Deputies, the Soviet parliament.

U.S. House passes foreign aid bill

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. House of Representatives Tuesday approved a \$14.6 billion foreign aid bill that includes \$3 billion for Israel and \$2 billion for Egypt.

President George Bush has threatened to veto the bill because of a \$15 million appropriation for the United Nations Population Fund for Birth Control Activities.

Opponents of the funding said some of the money would go to China, which they accused of practicing mandatory abortions and involuntary sterilisations. China says its birth control programmes are voluntary.

Before sending the bill to the Senate, the House added language that prohibits spending the money unless the president certi-

fied that none of the funds would be used for involuntary abortions or sterilisations by China.

The bill also provides \$1.6 billion for international financial institutions, including \$965 million for the World Bank's International Development Association, which makes interest free loans to underdeveloped nations, and \$50 million paid-in capital for the World Bank.

Other major provisions include \$532 million for Poland and Hungary, \$500 million in military aid for Turkey, \$350 million for military aid for Greece, \$460 million for Pakistan, \$160 million for the Philippines, \$125 million for international narcotics activities, \$85 million for El Salvador and \$83.5 million for relief efforts in Afghanistan.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Leo

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

OUMID

NAJOB

CURCIC

PANPHE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: G N O M E J O U S T M A K E U P S A V A G E

Yesterday's Jumbles: G N O M E J O U S T M A K E U P S A V A G E

Answer: Sticks to one thing and hopefully gets there — A STAMP

Peanuts

YES, MA'AM... I LEARNED A LOT TODAY... JUST BEING HERE WAS WORTH THE PRICE OF ADMISSION...

OF COURSE, I DIDN'T PAY ANYTHING!

HA HA HA HA HA HA!

YES, MA'AM YOU'RE WEIRD, SIR...

Andy Capp

WELL, I THINK YOU'RE AWFUL - YOU SNORE YOUR ETERNAL LOVE -

Mutt'n' Jeff

HOW COME YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH THAT BLONDE TODAY?

BECAUSE SHE'S SO DIFFERENT FROM ALL THE OTHER GIRLS I KNOW!

HOW'S THAT?

SHE'LL GO OUT WITH ME - SHE'S BEAUTIFUL BUT STUPID!

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK SHE'S STUPID?

YESTERDAY I SAID HELLO AND SHE WAS STUCK FOR AN ANSWER!

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday November 15, 1989

Central Bank official rates

Buy	Sell	Japanese yen (for 100)	445.0	449.4
U.S. dollar	638.0	644.0	307.7	310.8
Pound Sterling	1014.5	1024.6	99.3	100.3
Deutschmark	347.2	350.7	47.5	48.0
Swiss franc	393.8	397.7	165.0	166.7
French franc	102.3	103.3		

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.5870/80	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1685/95	Canadian dollar
	1.8395/402	Deutschmarks
	2.0758/65	Dutch guilders
	1.6244/54	Swiss francs
	38.57/60	Belgian francs
	6.2450/500	French francs
	1347/1348	Italian lire
	143.40/50	Japanese yen
	6.4200/50	Swedish crowns
	6.9000/50	Norwegian crowns
	7.1475/525	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	390.70/391.20	U.S. dollars

World title fight in Yerevan postponed

LONDON (AP) — The first world title fight to be staged in the Soviet Union has been postponed a second time because of insufficient sponsorship and other promotional problems, the International Boxing Federation said Tuesday.

Orlando Canizales, a Texan-based Mexican, was to have defended his IBF bantamweight title against Italian Alessandro De Santis on Nov. 19 in the Armenian capital of Yerevan.

But the IBF's European representative, John Robinson, said the fight — originally set for last month but postponed because of complications over TV rights — had been put off again until December at the earliest.

"The Finnish promoter is unable to go ahead," Robinson said. "He was trying to get sponsors for the fight, and it never happened. The Russians wanted the fight to go on but there were problems in the negotiations."

"In addition, the promoters never put up the sanctioning money which we wanted deposited in New Jersey 14 days before the fight."

Robinson said the fight would now probably take place in either Moscow or Leningrad because of a resurgence of unrest in Armenia.

He said American promoter Cedric Kushner was considering taking over the contest.

"Cedric stages world title fights all over the world and has the machinery to make this a viable proposition," Robinson said. "The Finns were out of their depth."

Brazil seeks record fourth title in 1990

By Peter Mueller
The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — In Brazil, where soccer is as much a part of life as Samba and the string bikini, the World Cup is the No. 1 sports event.

As the 1990 World Cup in Italy draws near, this South American country again in among the favorites as it tries to win an unprecedented fourth world championship.

Brazil showed its muscle in July, when it rolled over world champion Argentina and powerful Uruguay to win the America cup tournament, the South American championship.

Last month, with no time to train and missing several starters, Brazil stunned Italy 1-0 in an exhibition game in Bologna.

Fans here are proud that Brazil is the only country to qualify for every World Cup and, along with Italy, is the only three-time winner. Its three titles came in 1958, 1962 and 1970, the era of the incomparable Pelé.

Now Brazilians are hungry for another title. The memory of Brazil's elimination in four world cups since 1970 is a sore one — especially the upset loss to Italy in the 1962 World Cup in Spain, considered the high point of the generation of Zico, Falcao and Socrates.

This year, a new generation of players has come of age and is causing excitement even among Brazil's traditionally hard-to-please fans.

The base of the team is what Brazilians call "the foreigners" — top stars who play for European clubs, mostly in Italy and Portugal. Seven of the current 11 starters play abroad.

The undisputed leaders of the group is attacker Careca of Italy's Napoli club, who will be playing on his third World Cup team. An explosive scorer and brilliant ball handler, Careca received the supreme accolade from his Napoli teammate Diego Maradona of Argentina, who called the Brazilian the best player now active.

The field general is midfielder Valdo of Portugal's Benfica, a slick passer and dribbler who was a reserve in the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, when Brazil finished fifth.

The team's surprise weapons are lateral defenders Jorginho, of West Germany's Bayer Leverkusen, and Branco, of Portugal's Porto, who can quickly go onto attack.

The squad also boasts excellent depth, with players of the caliber of midfielder Alemão, of Napoli, and attackers Müller, of Torino, or Romario, of Holland's PSV, ready to come in off the bench.

Commanding the team is Sebastiao Lazaroni, 39, who took over as coach this year after brief experience in the Middle East and with Rio's Flamengo and Vasco clubs.

In a controversial move, Lazaroni scrapped the 4-4-2 and 4-3-3 tactics Brazil traditionally used

and implanted a European-style strategy with a roving fifth defenseman called a Libero.

The change made the team less vulnerable on defense without sacrificing its characteristic offensive style. Brazil successfully tested the new setup in the America cup and used it to qualify for the World Cup in South American group 3, eliminating Venezuela and Chile.

Lazaroni says Brazil will use the five-defensemen setup in the World Cup. Although Mauro Galvão of Rio's Botafogo club is the current starter at Rover, the coach says he wants to test defenseman Mozer of France's Marseille team at the position for the cup.

Lazaroni also promises surprises for the cup. The coach says he is looking for ways to field his "dream attack" of Careca, Romario and Bebeto, giving even more scoring punch to the lineup.

Brazil's only concern in facing European teams is size.

Many starters such as Bebeto, Romario and Silas are short and light, relying on speed and skill to beat stronger, heavier adversaries. Lazaroni has said his players will undergo a programme of "super physical preparation" to get ready for the cup.

Napoli drops Maradona law suit

NAPLES, Italy (R) Italian soccer league leaders Napoli dropped a big damages suit against Diego Maradona on Tuesday and said they and their temperamental Argentine star had agreed to bury their differences.

"Signor Maradona has assured his full respect for his professional commitments and repeated his willingness to play for Napoli until (his contract expires in) 1993."

"The club has reiterated its interest in availing itself of the player's services," an official Napoli statement said.

The carefully-worded statement said both sides had agreed to resolve their differences to their mutual satisfaction.

Club sources said the deal involved Napoli's dropping a damages claim in the civil courts for 700 million lire (\$50,000) from the company that markets Maradona's image after the star's unauthorized summer absence in Argentina.

Maradona agreed in return not to oppose a far smaller fine the club has sought to impose through soccer disciplinary channels because of his extended holiday, the sources said.

Relations between Maradona and UEFA cup-holders Napoli

reached breaking point in late August over the summer holiday row and plunged again over his last-minute ban from a UEFA cup tie on November 1 for missing training.

Maradona told reporters after returning from his wedding in Argentina last Thursday that he was ready to leave Napoli unless important issues were clarified.

Tuesday's statement appeared to meet a key demand from the player that Napoli say clearly whether they still wanted him.

World Cup Romania 3, Denmark 1

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Romania defeated Denmark 3-1 (2-1) in a group 1 World Soccer Cup qualifier match in Bucharest Wednesday and clinched a spot in the World Cup final in Italy next year.

The result left Denmark mathematically still in contention as one, not both, of the runners-up in groups 1 and 4 will also advance to the finals. The only way Denmark can make it would be if either the Netherlands, which tops group 4, or West Germany, runner-up, loses too.

West Germany met Wales in Cologne and the Netherlands plays Finland in Rotterdam later Wednesday.

For Denmark, who lost by two goals, there is even the possibility of a playoff on neutral ground if Germany, a perennial powerhouse and two-time World Cup winner, draws 3-3 with Wales.

The win put Romania on top of group 1 with 9 points from 6 games, ahead of Denmark, which finished with 8 points.

Flemming Povlsen scored for Denmark in the 5th minute. Gavril Balint in 25th and 62nd and Ioan Sabou in 38th tallied for Romania.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ONE FOR THE PRICE OF TWO

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K J 9 6
♥ Q 10 8 3
♦ A 9 2
♣ A 9

EAST
♠ 8 5 4
♥ 7
♦ Q 10 6 3
♣ K 8 6 4 3

SOUTH
♠ A Q 10
♥ A 6 4
♦ K J 8 5
♣ 7 5 2

longest and strongest to be more effective in the long run! Declarer won in hand and, with eight fast tricks available, decided to try for the ninth in hearts. She cashed the ace and continued the suit to learn the bad news when West pitched a diamond on the second round. East won cheaply and shifted to the queen of clubs, continuing the suit when declarer held up.

Reading the hand perfectly, declarer cashed her remaining spade tricks as East discarded a heart and West a club. She returned to hand with the king of diamonds and exited with her last club. West could not resist the temptation of rising with the king of clubs to cash his remaining club. But then he had to lead away from his queen of diamonds into declarer's combined ace-jack tenace. Making three-odd.

West should never have ended played himself. If he simply plays low on the third club, East will win. Since declarer must protect against East's hearts, declarer has to discard a diamond from the board on this trick. So East simply exits with a diamond to dummy's now bare ace and wins the last two tricks with his king-jack of hearts—down one.

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Eight of ♠

It is sometimes very difficult not to take tricks when the opportunity presents itself. On occasion, though, it can be very costly to grab them.

The auction was routine. With a balanced hand of sound opening-bid strength facing an announced opening bid, North had an easy raise to three no trump.

West made the unusual lead of a spade (we find fourth-best of your

Germans differ in single team

BERLIN (AP) — In a new era of relations between the two Germanys, the formation of a powerful single team for the Olympic games nonetheless is only a remote possibility, East and West German officials indicated Tuesday.

While a top West German Olympic official did not rule out a unified German team competing at the 1992 summer games, East German sports authorities made plain they have little interest in the idea for the time being.

A single German team would likely be the top Olympic medal winner.

At last year's Seoul summer games, East Germany racked up 102 medals, second only to the Soviet Union, while West Germany was fourth with 40. Together, they would have won 10 more medals than the Soviets and 48 more than the United States.

Any change in the status of the separate teams would have to be approved by the International Olympic Committee, which governs the games.

The IOC recognised East Germany's national Olympic committee in 1955, but under a compromise between the two Germanys, they sent joint teams to the games through 1964.

Since 1968, in a symbol of its political independence, East Germany has sent athletes to the Olympics under its own flag. It quickly became a sports powerhouse, although trained in recent years by allegations of secret use of banned performance-building drugs.

Walter Troeger, a West German Olympic official and influential IOC member, said it would be wrong to pressure East Germany on this "territory" issue during its current turmoil.

"I would be ashamed to raise the issue today with my East German partners," he said.

"Not that I do not wish or believe that it could come about. The question will arise. I'm sure one will start thinking about whether there is common ground," he said in a telephone interview from Frankfurt.

But he added, "at the moment there are quite different problems."

"If we start building relations to the new East German leadership, the question could be posed in six months," he said.

Asked if a single team could enter the next summer Olympics at Barcelona in 1992, he said, "Why not?"

Such hopeful notes were not echoed by Wolfgang Gitter, secretary general of the East German national Olympic committee, when a reporter suggested the possibility of a reunified squad.

"The idea has not come up at all," he said.

A ranking IOC official said the world Olympic body is open to suggestions.

British yachtsman buried at sea

PORTSMOUTH, England (AP) — Anthony Phillips, a crewman competing in the Whitbread round-the-world yacht race, was buried at sea Tuesday, two days after being washed overboard into the frigid south Atlantic.

Race organisers said arrangements were being made for an official burial to take place Tuesday morning but there was no word whether the ceremony actually had taken place.

Phillips was a cousin of Capt. Mark Phillips, husband of Princess Anne, Queen Elizabeth II's only daughter.

He was a crew member aboard Creightons Naturally, only of two British entries in the cruiser class of the race.

Organisers said the vessel resumed racing Tuesday and was headed east again on the second leg of the event from Punta del Este, Uruguay, to Fremantle, Australia.

THE Daily Crossword by Betty Jorgensen

ACROSS

1. Relent
5. Beauty parlor
10. Roughage
14. Mountains, USSR
15. Investigate
16. Fr. composer
17. Unbalanced
20. Assuage
21. Mountains, USSR
22. Worship
23. Acne eruptions
24. Instant
25. Boundaries
26. A chapel
30. Bank deal
31. Pungent
32. Country
33. Monogram
35. Embarrassed
36. Beverage
40. Kingly
41. Olive grove
42. Luge
43. Soothing
45. More shrewd
46. Factious
50. Marriage
51. Sandwich
52. Turnoff
53. Upright
55. Thin Man's dog
60. Made public
61. In the van
62. Actress
63. Patricia
64. Manner
65. Camera eye

DOWN

1. Fabricated
2. Essayist
3. Endure
4. One to one
5. Fits and
6. Melodies
7. Laze
8. Kimono belt
9. Beak
10. Sticker?
11. Boca, FL
12. Vigilent
13. Bumps
14. Resign
18. Open porch
23. Metallic element
24. Mushroom
25. years (elderly)
26. Robert or Alan
27. Slave
28. First or second
29. Group of eight
31. Wrath
32. Brains
33. Strike one as
34. "An apple —"
36. "Twelfth night" duke
37. Afr. river
38. Coward
43. Decade
44. Track
45. Kharoum's land
46. Licorice
47. View
48. Outspoken
49. Uprise
51. Small boat
52. Fit to
53. School VIP
54. Bookmaker's quote
56. Household members
57. Snaffle
58. Entirely

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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The National Music Conservatory / Noor Al Hussein Foundation
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MUNIR BACHIR
in a
Oud Recital
Improvised Meditations

Saturday, November 18, 1989
The Royal Cultural Centre
8:00 p.m.
Main Theatre

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The National Music Conservatory, tel. 667626

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FATAL ATTRACTION

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Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

Noor Al Sharif, Maail Zayed

EXECUTION BATTALION

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

"DRUM"

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571

NIJOUN

BATMAN

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 677420

PLAZA

CROCODILE DUNDEE Part II

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:45, 9:00

Rebels claim 'liberating' one-fourth of El Salvador

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — Rebels contended early Wednesday they had "liberated" one-fourth of the country during a fierce, three-day offensive, but President Alfredo Cristiani says his government faces no threat of being toppled.

The rebel Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, or FMLN, claimed its forces controlled portions of eight of El Salvador's 14 provinces. Cristiani denied the rebels' contentions. He claimed their offensive "has been a failure."

Both Cristiani's U.S.-backed rightist administration and the Marxist-led guerrilla coalition claimed to have widespread popular support.

At least 500 people have been killed and more than 1,000 wounded since the guerrillas launched their offensive Saturday night, according to official reports.

The battle has been the largest since the rebels' so-called "final offensive" in January 1981 failed.

Cristiani, who took office on June 1, said government forces have "neutralised" insurgents on San Salvador's south eastern, southern and western periphery,

workshops of popular armament, to collect food, medicine and bandages and organise the means of getting them to the combat zones," she said.

The fighting, a dusk-to-dawn curfew, and a guerrilla-imposed road transportation ban made travelling difficult, hampering efforts to gauge popular support for either side.

The streets were deserted late Tuesday and early Wednesday. Red flares dropped by helicopters drifted over the Mejicanos neighbourhood and tracer-laced bursts from the gunships' 30-calibre machine guns sporadically blasted the working-class district.

Mejicanos was one of several neighbourhoods on the capital's periphery where residents reported that the rebels were entrenched.

Fighting also was reported in El Salvador's eastern provinces, to which travel is restricted.

An estimated 70,000 people, most of them civilians, have died in the 10-year-old civil war between the rebels and a succession of U.S.-backed governments.

Rebel leaders ordered the offensive after announcing they

would not participate in peace talks scheduled for next week in Venezuela. They said Cristiani's government was not negotiating seriously and blamed it for the Oct. 31 bombing of a union headquarters that killed 10 people and wounded 29.

Two leftist political leaders who had been operating publicly since late 1987 took refuge in the Mexican and Venezuelan embassies in San Salvador. The leaders, Guillermo Ungo and Ruben Zamora, have not asked for asylum, and are described by their hosts as "guests."

Cristiani denied reports that air force planes and helicopters had bombed civilian zones where residents say the guerrillas are dug in. He acknowledged that rebel positions were strafed.

Gen. Humberto Larios, the minister of defence, said guerrillas have fired rockets at guerrilla positions.

Pedro Varela, spokesman for the Salvadoran Red Cross, said the local organisation had appealed to the International Red Cross in Geneva to mediate a 72-hour truce between the government and the guerrilla command.

Lithuanian party chiefs summoned to Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — President Mikhail Gorbachev has summoned leaders of the rebellious Lithuanian Communist Party to an unprecedented meeting with the Soviet politburo Thursday.

The move was a sign of Kremlin alarm at the Lithuanian party's plans to break with Moscow. Aigis Zhukauskas, an aide to party leader Algirdas Brazauskas, said all members of the republic's party bureau had been called to a regular session of the 11-member politburo, the supreme political authority in the Soviet Union.

Zhukauskas said he could not say for sure what would be discussed but he presumed a proposal to split the Lithuanian party from Moscow was one reason for the invitation.

"It has never happened in the history of the Lithuanian Communist Party that the entire bureau has been invited to such a meeting, and probably the first time for the Soviet Union as a whole," he told Reuters.

The move appeared to be further confirmation of Kremlin alarm at the Lithuanian party's decision to hold a special congress on Dec. 19 which is expected to approve plans to set up an independent Lithuanian Communist Party.

Gorbachev had asked Brazauskas to delay the congress until next spring.

Creation of a separate Lithuanian Party would be the first break in the monolithic unity of the Soviet Communist Party and would seriously weaken Moscow's control of the drive for political and economic autonomy in the once-independent republic.

It could also encourage the parties in neighbouring Estonia and Latvia to follow suit, raising the spectre of political upheaval under way in Eastern Europe spilling over into the Soviet Union itself.

More Sinhalese extremists arrested

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Government troops raided a clandestine radio station and captured its operator, the latest arrest in a crackdown on the leadership of an extremist Sinhalese group, military officials said Wednesday.

The bodies of 31 suspected members of the group also were discovered at daybreak in the central hills, the officials said. They blamed the killings on pro-government vigilante groups.

The government's 2-year-old battle to subdue the People's Liberation Front took a dramatic turn Monday with the reported capture and killing of the group's supreme leader, Rohana Wijeweera.

According to a military source, the avowed Marxist "sang like a bird" about the whereabouts of his top lieutenants. In less than 18 hours, Wijeweera and the front's no. 2 and no. 3 men were killed by security forces, according to government announcements.

More than 6,000 people have been killed since the People's Liberation Front began its campaign of terror in August 1987 by assassinating government officials and supporters.

The front opposed the Sinhalese-dominated government's now-failed peace accord with minority ethnic Tamil guerrillas who have been fighting since 1983 for a separate homeland in northern Sri Lanka. The Tamil insurrection has killed an estimated 11,000 people.

The military officials said Wednesday that the raid on the front's clandestine radio station was carried out Tuesday night in Boralesgamuwa, 11 kilometres south east of Colombo.

The front member in charge of the station, Andreas Costa, was captured and radio equipment worth 5 million rupees (\$1.5 million) was seized, according to the officials who cannot be identified under briefing rules.

The short-wave radio station was called Ranabanda, which is Sinhalese for "voice of the revolution." It broadcast three days a week, varying its hours to avoid jamming.

Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne, who is also deputy defence minister, claimed Tuesday that six of the front's seven politburo members had been killed. But the military officials said Wednesday the politburo had expanded to nine members, of whom seven were known to have been killed.

They identified the surviving members as S.A. Amarasinghe and Lakshmi Fernando, who they said was the current leader.

Nujomo: SWAPO will not impose policies on rivals

WINDHOEK, Namibia (Agencies) — Sam Nujoma, the leading candidate to be Namibia's first president, said Wednesday his party is ready to begin writing a constitution with help from political rivals so the territory can declare independence from South Africa.

Nujoma's South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) was declared the winner Tuesday of pre-independence elections, receiving 57 per cent of the vote.

SWAPO, which waged a 23-year guerrilla war against South African rule, will hold 41 of the 72 seats in the assembly that is expected to begin writing the constitution next week.

But at least 48 of the 72 members, or two-thirds, must approve decisions by the assembly.

That means SWAPO probably will have to bargain with at least some of the five other parties that have won seats.

The Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, a multiracial coalition that favours a capitalist economy, won 21 seats. None of the other parties has more than four seats.

"We have no intentions of imposing our views on others and anticipate no serious disagreements," Nujoma said in a news conference.

"We stand ready to be guided by the democratic principles of open discussion and decision by the majority."

"Even those who did not gain

any seats in the assembly will have the opportunity to enjoy the fruits of independence," he said. He said SWAPO would work to declare independence as soon as possible, but declined to set any dates.

Most observers believe Namibia will achieve independence early next year as long as there are no serious obstacles in writing the constitution.

During his 30 years in exile, Nujoma and his movement were considered orthodox Marxists. Since SWAPO leaders began returning to Namibia earlier this year, however, they have taken a more moderate approach.

Nujoma said SWAPO will pursue a mixed-economy, welcomes foreign investors and wants good relations with both East and West. He has repeatedly urged Namibia's 75,000 whites, and civil servants in particular, to remain in the territory and help develop the emerging nation.

Namibia has mineral wealth, some large scale agricultural operations, a relatively good infrastructure and one of the higher per capita incomes in Africa. However, whites, who make up only 6 per cent of the population, control much of the economy.

SWAPO will seek greater income equality, Nujoma said. "We represent the oppressed people, the section of the have-nots," he said.

German re-unification inevitable — Kissinger

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Economic and political forces inevitably will reunify Germany in the next few years, even if the governments remain separate, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said.

Kissinger, speaking Tuesday night to the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia, also predicted fundamental change in the relationships among the Soviet Union, the United States and the nations of Europe.

But he also said too much credit for the changes in Hungary, Poland and especially East Germany has been given to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

"When leaders of Western nations don't know what to say about the changes in Eastern Europe, they praise Gorbachev," Kissinger said.

"Give Gorbachev credit for recognising the necessities of his society and his economy. But he was not put in his job for his entertainment value to the West."

Kissinger, who described himself as a "NATO traditionalist," said only the naive could believe the present alliances in Europe will survive.

"I do not say these things are welcome, but that they are facts,"

he said. Kissinger predicted that free elections in East Germany would produce the same range of political parties that now exists in West Germany. The two economies will become similar, too, he said.

"If the border remains open, economic conditions will be equal on both sides of it or most of the East Germans will move to West Germany," he said.

"The next three to four years will see the de facto unification of Germany, even if two separate political systems are maintained," Kissinger said.

Kissinger, who was Secretary of State under former President Richard Nixon in the early 1970s, said he always thought President George Bush and Gorbachev should hold a philosophical discussion of where their policies are going.

"The Malta summit next month 'doesn't need to provide answers,' he said. 'It should give us a road map.'"

Kissinger theorised that Gorbachev looks to Germany and Japan to help rebuild the Soviet Union — after pushing the United States out of Germany.

"We ought to treat him as a serious person who has serious objectives," Kissinger said.

Yakovlev urges open dialogue with Japan

TOKYO (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's top aide an ideologue Wednesday said the Soviet Union welcomed the dramatic changes in East Europe and urged Japan to take advantage of the new spirit of dialogue.

"The current political process in East Europe is healthy and normal," Alexander Yakovlev told a news conference.

"It is healthy because the democratic process is under way and this kind of change will not be a threat to anyone," he said. But he challenged Western political analysts who said the radical events in East Germany, Hungary and Poland meant the death of socialism.

"It is rather that their naive image of socialism is dead," he said. "We think of it as victory for socialism."

Yakovlev, a member of the Soviet Communist Party's ruling politburo and a chief liberal ideologue under Gorbachev, declined comment on the possibility of a unified Germany but ruled out the use of force to prevent such an occurrence.

"Whatever the country, it is anachronistic to use military force. We have in 1985 already stated that we recognise different roads to socialism," he said.

He urged Japan to recognise the spirit of dialogue brought about by perestroika, or reform, in the Soviet Union.

Japan must pursue an alternative policy of constructive talks to thaw bilateral relations frozen since World War II over a territorial dispute, he said.

"This is what I mean by the third way," Yakovlev said in reference to an earlier remark that had been mistakenly interpreted to mean a concrete compromise on the question of four small Soviet-held islands claimed by Japan.

"We must not make the talks an exchange of monologues. We must bring about a true dialogue," he added.

The dispute over the islands has prevented the two countries from signing a peace treaty formally ending World War II. "This state of affairs is abnormal for two big neighbouring countries," Yakovlev said.

A working group will meet in Tokyo next month to discuss the peace treaty. The talks are expected to include discussions on territorial issues and will be followed by a visit by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze next March.

In a further sign of radical change in the Soviet Union, Yakovlev said he had invited Emperor Akihito to visit Moscow.

Yakovlev, who is heading a delegation from the Supreme Soviet, or parliament, on a one-week visit, said he understood there were rigid rules to follow in arranging an imperial tour.

The two countries have gone to war four times this century and diplomatic contacts between heads of state have been extremely rare.

The last member of Russian imperial family to come to Japan was Crown Prince Nicholas in 1891 when he was stabbed by a radical rightwing policeman.

After he became Czar Nicholas II, Russia fought Japan in 1904-1905.

No Soviet president or head of the Communist Party has ever visited Japan, and Gorbachev in 1991 is set to become the first Soviet leader to come to Tokyo.

"As you well know, Gorbachev's visits are always meaningful and fruitful. And visits of this kind should not be confined to bilateral issues," Yakovlev said.

U.S. Navy halts operations due to accidents

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Navy has ordered an unprecedented 48-hour halt to training flights and routine warship movement worldwide after 29 people were injured in a helicopter landing ship fire, the latest in a string of naval accidents.

Admiral Carlisle Trost, the chief of naval operations, said all ships, aircraft squadrons and shore training facilities would conduct the "safety stand-down" within the next three days to examine safety and training procedures.

Trost and Navy Secretary Lawrence Garrett III gave the order hours after 20 sailors and nine shipyard workers were injured in Norfolk, Virginia, Tuesday morning in a fire aboard the helicopter landing ship Inchon.

It was the latest in nearly a dozen accidents involving naval ships and planes since the start of October, including an aircraft bombing one ship, one vessel hitting another with machinegun fire and a navy reserve attack jet crashing into an apartment complex.

Trost said previous stand-down orders had been given to individual units within the navy in the past but navy officials said no such worldwide order had previously been given.

"I don't recall one navy-wide," the admiral said. "It is prompted by my concern for the unrelated but extensive number of recent accidents which have caused concern about safety in our navy."

U.S. cites Soviet defence cuts

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. State Department says the Soviet Union had cut its defence spending, but the Defence Department said it could not provide an estimate until the year is over.

"It's too early to give a final estimate of Soviet defence spending for 1989," Margaret D. Tutwiler, the State Department spokeswoman, said Tuesday.

"However, it does appear that Soviet defence spending this year is less than it was last year."

She said the United States had seen evidence of cuts in Soviet defence efforts, including reductions in the production of conventional weapons. "We have also seen withdrawals of conventional weapons and troops from Eastern Europe and Mongolia," Ms. Tutwiler said.

However, CIA estimates of Soviet military spending show a 1.5 per cent drop for this year, and intelligence officials project a decline of 7 per cent for 1990, the Washington Post reported in its Wednesday editions. The newspaper cited anonymous sources.

Last week, at an arms control seminar, a U.S. official told reporters that the Soviets had cut tank production and also had slowed production of Typhoon nuclear submarines.

The official, who could not be identified under seminar rules, said there was "credible evidence" of a cutback in tank output.

But Defence Department spokesman Pete Williams, echoing statements made earlier this week by Defence Secretary Richard B. Cheney, disputed reports the Soviets had slowed the modernisation of some long-range nuclear weapons or had evidence of cutbacks in conventional arms.

"There's obviously no way of knowing for sure what spending for '89 is until 1989 is over. So we have to wait until 1989 comes to an end before we can conclude that their spending has been cut," Williams said.

However, the State Department's Tutwiler said "the ex-

U.S. spacecraft falling to Earth

HOUSTON (R) — A 2,250 kilogramme U.S. spacecraft is expected to fall to Earth late this month, but NASA officials said Tuesday that chances were slim any of it would land in an inhabited area.

The Solar Maximum Mission Satellite, also known as Solar Max, is about 300 kilometres above Earth and descending into the atmosphere at half-a-mile a day, a spokesman for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) said.

Most of the craft will burn up as it re-enters the atmosphere, but NASA studies indicate that pieces weighing up to 180 kilogramme could survive and fall to

Earth. NASA scientists said they would not be able to pinpoint where Solar Max will fall, although re-entry was expected around Nov. 29.

While Solar Max is over water most of the time, its orbit also takes it over parts of Asia, Africa, South America, Australia and the extreme southern United States, NASA said.

"Like all satellites in low orbit, its orbit has gradually decayed over time," Steve Nesbitt, a spokesman at Johnson Space Centre, told Reuters.

The satellite was launched in 1980 and boosted to an orbit

more than 570 kilometres above the Earth, NASA officials said.

A second, much larger U.S. spacecraft — 9,630 kilogramme long duration exposure facility, or LDEF — also is falling out of orbit, but a scheduled Dec. 18 shuttle flight is expected to retrieve it 320 kilometres from Earth and bring it home.

Both satellites are descending because of heavy solar activity. Al Pennington, flight director for the upcoming shuttle flight to retrieve LDEF, said unusually intense solar energy was causing the Earth's atmosphere to expand, which increases friction on the satellites, pulling them back toward Earth.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Prague reduces army service

PRAGUE (AP) — The length of mandatory military service for Czechoslovak men will be reduced from 24 to 18 months, the Czech News Agency CTK said Tuesday. "We are making (plans) to shorten military service to 18 months and (they) will be approved by the federal assembly next year," Legislator Jaroslav Klicha was quoted as telling a parliament meeting. The reduction is part of Czechoslovak plans to cut military manpower and hardware, announced in January. Klicha said 138 tanks and 51 planes of the Czech security forces have been scrapped to date, and 18,000 soldiers have been redeployed as construction workers. His announcement comes six months after a partial withdrawal of the Soviet troops who first came to Czechoslovakia in the Warsaw Pact invasion that crushed reform in 1968. That withdrawal is part of the phased pullout of 50,000 Soviet troops and 5,000 tanks from East Germany, Hungary and Czechoslovakia promised by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev last December. According to Western estimates, there are about 80,000 Soviet soldiers in Czechoslovakia.

New York jogger leaves hospital

NEW YORK (AP) — A jogger who was gang-raped, beaten and left for dead in New York's Central Park has been released from a Connecticut hospital after nearly seven months of rehabilitation. The jogger, a 29-year-old investment banker originally from the Pittsburgh area, will continue outpatient treatment at Gaylord Hospital in Wallingford, Connecticut, a spokesman there said. She still is unable to recall the attack and its aftermath, "but she has made good recovery and rehabilitation," said spokesman Gerald Main. On April 19, the jogger was on her nightly run in the park when she was dragged 200 feet into bushes, raped, beaten with a pipe and a rock and left unconscious. Six teen-agers were indicted in the attack. When police found her 3½ hours later, she was in a coma and had lost almost 80 per cent of her blood. She suffered brain contusions, two head fractures, broken facial bones and bruises from head to toe. Paramedics did not expect her to live. She remained in critical condition at a New York City hospital until May 1, when she appeared to raise her eyebrows as her name was called and moved her hand. She was walking by June 7, when she was moved to Gaylord Hospital. By midsummer, she was reading novels, relearning basic math and calling colleagues at Salomon Bros., where she worked before the attack.

Bolivia declares state of siege

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — The government declared a state of siege Wednesday in response to a hunger strike by teachers and workers and arrested hundreds of labour leaders. Police also took three teachers who were in critical condition from a 24-day hunger strike to a clinic for emergency treatment. It was not known immediately where the other detainees were taken but there were reports some of them may have been flown to detention camps in the interior of the country. The government issued a decree announcing the state of siege that said "A group of leaders of the teachers' union had unleashed an illegal hunger strike creating a climate of social unrest with demands that the state cannot attend without risking the economic and financial stability of the country." Police rounded up at least 500 teachers and labour leaders early Wednesday morning, said Raul Loayza, under-secretary of the interior. No violence was reported.

54 killed in Kenyan bus crash

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Fifty-four passengers died and six were hospitalised in critical condition after a bus smashed through guard rails on a bridge and plunged into a river bank, newspapers reported Wednesday. The accident Tuesday 60 kilometres south east of Kenya's capital, Nairobi, happened as the driver of the 61-seat bus lost control while trying to overtake another bus on a two-lane highway, according to the reports. Police said they could not confirm the number or identities of passengers on board. The bus crashed into the River Thwake, that was waterless due to Kenya's dry season.

North, South Koreans hold talks

PANMUNJOM, Korea (R) — Bitter rivals North and South Korea Wednesday held border talks in a rare amicable atmosphere and predicted success in arranging an unprecedented meeting between their prime ministers. "I can say it was a fruitful meeting and both sides now know each other's positions well," North Korean chief delegate Paik Nam-Jun told reporters at the end of the two-hour talks at the border village of Panmunjom. "The southern side negotiated with us in a flexible manner and I can see a great progress in the next meeting if both sides hold discussions with sincerity and in the spirit of mutual respect," he added.

COLUMN

Manet painting draws \$26.4m

NEW YORK (AP) — Edouard Manet's "La Rue Mosnier aux Drapeaux" was sold for \$26.4 million, a world auction record for the artist, Christie's Auction Gallery said. The oil on canvas painting, depicting a Paris street bedecked with flags commemorating the war dead, was bought by an anonymous American dealer, said Starr Collins, a spokeswoman for the auction house. The previous auction record for a Manet was \$11.08 million, set in 1986, for another painting of the same street, with the same title, she said. Vincent Van Gogh's "La Vieille II," or the old yew tree, also in oil on canvas, sold for \$2.35 million to an anonymous buyer, Collins said. Pablo Picasso's "Famille de J.Arlequin," a representation of the Cirque Medrano acrobats that characterises the artist's rose period, sold for \$15.4 million to an American dealer, she said. Other highlights included Claude Monet's "Nymphs," an exploration of the pond at the artist's home at Giverny, sold for \$11.55 million to an anonymous buyer. Constantin Brancusi's "La Muse En Dormie III," a marble sculpture of a female head in an abstract form, sold for 8.25 million to an Asian dealer.

Mustang Ranch for sale again

RENO, Nevada (AP) — America's best-known brothel is back on the market for the second time this year after an earlier stock offering fell short, according to Mustang Ranch owner Joe Conforte. Under the revised offering approved on Monday by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Conforte and his wife, Sally, would retain a 40 per cent interest in the 105-room brothel 16 kilometres east of Reno. And while he plans to retire once the sale goes through, Conforte will remain as supervisor of the operations. "My expertise after 35 years in the business will help tremendously to make it a success," he said. "Even though I'm going to be retired, I'll always be within reach." The original stock offer approved by the SEC in February put 1.165 million shares of stock in Mustang Ranch Inc. on the market for \$20 each. It failed to meet a deadline for selling out three months later with about 75 per cent of the stock sold.

Broadway flop named London's best play

LONDON (AP) — Ghetto, Israeli writer Joshua Sobol's Holocaust drama, was named London's best play of 1989 Tuesday at the 34th annual evening standard Drama awards. A separate production of the same play flopped last spring on Broadway. Miss Saigon, the hit show expected in New York next fall, was named best musical, and veteran Broadway composer Stephen Sondheim was given a special award from Princess Diana for overall achievement. Nicholas Hytner, the Englishman who directed both Ghetto and Miss Saigon, was chosen best director at the star-studded luncheon ceremony taped for television Tuesday night. Best actor was Ian McKellen for his performance as Iago in Shakespeare's Othello, which ended a sellout limited run on Saturday. Best Actress was Felicity Kendal for her performance in revivals of Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing and Anton Chekhov's Ivanov.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	08	15	52 Clear
ATHENS	10	16	61 Cloudy
BANGKOK	24	35	85 Cloudy
BANGKOK	24	35	85 Cloudy
BANGKOK	24	35	85 Cloudy
CAIRO	13	25	71 Clear
CHICAGO	08	09	48 Snow
COPENHAGEN	08	11	52 Cloudy
FRANKFURT	01	30	38 Cloudy
GENEVA	03	22	62 Cloudy
HONG KONG	18	24	72 Cloudy
ISTANBUL	08	12	54 Cloudy
LONDON	07	12	54 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	14	21	60 Clear
MADRID	11	16	61 Rain
MECCA	23	35	95 Cloudy
MONTREAL	02	02	36 Rain
MOSCOW	09	22	34 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	X	X	X X X
NEW YORK	12	23	70 Rain
PARIS	02	38	75 Clear
ROME	17	27	81 Clear
SYDNEY	09	18	64 Cloudy
TOKYO	08	12	54 Cloudy
VIENNA	X	X	X X X

X indicates missing information.